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THE FALL AND RISE OF OLI AS NEPAL PM

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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY JUNE 15, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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WANT TO DO MEANINGFUL WORK: VIDYA 13 VIVACITY

CAPSULE

INDIA, PAKISTAN TO SHARE BASMATI RICE OWNERSHIP

Islamabad: In a rare agreement between two arch-rivals India and Pakistan, which have a history of long-time rivalry with disputes on every front from sea to land, exporters from both sides of the border have mutually agreed to share the ownership of the regions prized Basmati rice, a solution considered the most workable to reach the European markets.

MODI CONGRATULATES ISRAEL PM BENNETT

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated Naftali Bennett on being sworn in as Israel's new prime minister, and said he looked forward to meeting him and deepening their countries' strategic partnership as they celebrate 30 years of the upgradation of diplomatic ties next year.

INTERACT WITH SASIKALA AND FACE EXIT: AIADMK

Chennai: The AIADMK on Monday warned of disciplinary action against those in the party if they interacted with ousted party leader VK Sasikala, even as it expelled 17 members, including party spokesman V Pugazhendhi.

ACTOR SANCHARI VIJAY SUCCEUMBS TO INJURY

Bengaluru: Kannada actor Sanchari Vijay, who met with an accident on June 12, died at the age of 38 on Monday. He was moved to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Apollo Hospital in Bengaluru, where he was being treated.

Land deal charges false, says Ram Mandir trust

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■ AYODHYA

Facing political heat over the alleged scam in purchase of land for the construction of Ram temple and adjoining areas, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya claimed that agreement for the said land was signed in 2017 much before the Supreme Court allowed the construction of temple in Ayodhya.

The general secretary of the Trust, Champat Rai, said in a statement here on Monday that the trust has bought the land at a price much less than the market rate.

He said the trust is buying land to expand the region around Ram Lalla temple. "To make travel accessible we needed land around the temple complex. We bought land which had houses and temples. The trust has decided to settle these people elsewhere. In view of this, the trust bought Gata number 243, 244 and 246 (area 12080 square meters) so that the displaced could be settled there," he said.

The SP leader Pawan Pandey and AAP MP Sanjay Singh had alleged major scam in the purchase of that land saying it was first bought at Rs 2 crore and within 10 minutes the same land was sold at Rs



Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai

18.50 crore. Rai said that the initial agreement for the said land was done in the year 2017 for Rs 2.16 crore of which Rs 92 lakh was paid in advance. "It is clear that the price of the land was evaluated at the 2017 rate when the price of the land was low. After the verdict of Ram Janmabhoomi on November 9, 2019, the price of the land increased almost 10 times, so the price of the said land increased almost 9 times when the trust bought it," Rai told reporters. Acharya Satyendra

Das, the chief priest of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi, says that the allegations leveled by the Aam Aadmi Party and Samajwadi Party leaders are politically motivated.

Ayodhya DM Anuj Kumar Jha said that the land purchased by Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Bagh Bijaasi locality is at a prime location. The main gate of Ayodhya railway station is to be built there and thus soon it will become the biggest commercial hub," he said.

Opp seeks PM's clarifications, SC investigation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Monday kept alive the issue of alleged scam in land purchase by Ram Temple trust and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should answer whether those behind it had his protection.

Congress, Shiv Sena, TMC, RJD and several other parties called for a thorough investigation. The Congress flagged it as big scam by Ram temple trust and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the charge.

Shiv Sena demanded "clarification" from the trust and other leaders, saying the construction of the temple is a matter of faith for the saffron party and the common people.

At a Press conference on Sunday, Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had alleged that Shriram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai purchased 1.208 hectares of land worth Rs 2 crore in Ayodhya's Bag Bijaasi village at an inflated price of Rs

Continued on Page 11

Nitish evens score, scripts LJP's coup against Chirag

5 of 6 LJP MPs oust Chirag as party leader in LS, elect Paras

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

Backed by the Janata Dal (U) and the BJP, five of the six Lok Janshakti Party MPs in the Lok Sabha dumped Chirag Paswan and elected his paternal uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras in his place, as the party leader in the Lok Sabha. There is a strong buzz that Paras can now find a berth in the Union Cabinet.

"I have not broken the party but saved it," Paras, MP from Hajipur, told reporters. In case there is no patch up between a chacha and bhatija, the LJP could be headed for a clear split.

Indicating his closeness with the BJP and JD(U), Paras said his group will continue to be part of the BJP-led NDA, adding that Chirag can remain part of the organisation. The group of five MPs has conveyed their decision of electing Paras as the LJP leader in the Lok Sabha to the Speaker.

There has been no comment from Chirag on the issue. The rebel group led by Paras includes MPs Prince Raj



Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan arrives to meet party leader Pashupati Kumar Paras at his house in New Delhi on Monday

Chandan Singh, Veena Devi and Mehboob Ali Kaiser. They have long been unhappy with Chirag's style of functioning, sources said. The LJP president has now been left virtually isolated at the top after taking on the mantle following his father Ram Vilas Paswan's death in 2020.

Sources said that the entire drama was scripted by the Janata Dal (U) leadership and the BJP lend tacit support to the move.

After Chirag Paswan-led LJP played a spoilsport to the JD(U) in the last year's Assembly polls by strategically putting up candidates to scupper the chances of Nitish's party, the JD(U) leadership had reportedly vowed to teach a lesson to Chirag. Chirag had even threatened to send Nitish Kumar to jail, something which

a person like Nitish was unlikely to forget and forgive.

After the Assembly polls, late Ramvilas Paswan's younger brother Paras was thrust upon in touch with Nitish Kumar and the BJP leadership. They decided to strike when the MPs agreed to desert Chirag en bloc.

Bihar BJP president Dr Sanjay Jaisawal reportedly had a luncheon meeting with Paras two days ago where the script to dump Chirag was discussed.

Sources said top JD(U) leadership backed the move and played a key role in bringing together all the MPs over a period of time. Senior JD (U) leader Lallan Singh, Bihar Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari, and JD(U) MLC Sanjay Singh were part of the operation to bring together the rebel MPs. *Continued on Page 11*

People throng markets, flout Covid norms as States open

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With the Covid-19 restrictions easing in several States amid the decline of Covid-19 cases, people thronged markets and roads on Monday, in many cases brazenly violating Covid-19 norms. Several pictures and videos have gone viral on social media in which people can be seen without masks and flouting social distancing norms in markets.

A large number of tourists from neighbouring States thronged Shimla, Kullu-Manali and Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh on the first day after the State opened its borders to outsiders without the mandatory RT-PCR negative report, leading to massive traffic congestion. Similarly, most of the metro cities witnessed chaotic traffic jams in the morning on major roads and highways after.

As the Tamil Nadu Government-run TASMAC wine shops opened on Monday, tippers thronged liquor shops. At some shops they were found adhering to the protocol but in most of the shops, no social dis-

tancing and masks were observed. A video went viral on social media where a man dressed in white started worshipping alcohol bottles after he bought them in Madurai after the reopening of liquor shops.

The traffic congestion returned to haunt Bengaluru after relaxation in lockdown. Hundreds of vehicles coming from the neighbouring Hosur in Krishnagiri district were seen stuck in long queues at Attibele in Bengaluru. The chaotic traffic extended up to Bommanahalli and Silk Board Junction. There was a chock-a-block at Freedom Park, Seshadripuram, Malleswaram, Town Hall, Richmond Road and Kempe Gowda Road right in the middle of the city as well.

Meanwhile, traffic also snarled at ITO, Badarpur-Mehrauli road and Delhi-Gurugram road in Delhi and NCR after relaxation in lockdown in Delhi. People have to wait for long durations outside metro stations and bus stands, flouting social distancing norms. Similarly, a number of people found flouting social distancing norms and without masks in Connaught Place,



Crowd at Sadar Bazar market after authorities eased Covid-induced restrictions on Monday

Sarojini Nagar, Delhi University and South Extension markets.

Markets were seen crowded without business, traders claimed. Installing protective screens, conducting temperature checks, contactless ordering, and visible cues to ensure physical distancing are among the various measures taken by restaurants in the National Capital which reopened with 50 per cent capacity after nearly two months.

Continued on Page 11

Tourists flock to Shimla, Manali, metros witness chaotic traffic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that land degradation affected over two-thirds of the world and said unless steps were taken to address the issue it will erode the very foundations of our societies, economies, food security, health, safety and quality of life.

In his virtual address at the UN "High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought", Modi said India is working towards restoring 2.6 crore hectares of degraded land by 2030 and is assisting fellow developing countries to develop land-restoration strategies

Single dose of vax sufficient for already infected people: Study

Hyderabad: A single dose of Covid-19 vaccine is sufficient for an infected person as there was a greater antibody response when compared with those who have had no prior infection, according to a study released by AIG Hospitals on Monday.

Committed to save mother Earth: PM

Modi urges world to reduce pressure on land, resources

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the UN 'High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought', through video conferencing, in New Delhi

called for better access and stewardship over land and emphasised gender-sensitive transformative projects.

"In India, over the last 10 years, around three million (30 lakh) hectares of forest cover has been added. This has

enhanced the combined forest cover to almost one-fourth of the country's total area," the Prime Minister said.

"We are on track to achieve our national commitment of land degradation neutrality. We are also working towards

restoring 26 million (2.6 crore) hectares of degraded land by 2030," Modi said.

This would contribute to India's commitment to achieve an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion (250 to 300 crore) tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, he added.

"We believe that restoration of land can start a virtuous cycle for good soil health, increased land productivity, food security and improved livelihoods," the Prime Minister said.

Pointing out that in many parts of India, novel approaches have been taken up, the Prime Minister cited the example of Banni region in Rann of Kutch in Gujarat which suffers from highly degraded land and receives very little rainfall.

"In that region, land restoration is done by developing grasslands, which helps in achieving land degradation neutrality. It also supports pastoral activities and livelihood by promoting animal husbandry," he said.

"In the same spirit, we need to devise effective strategies for land restoration while promoting indigenous techniques," Modi said.

Investors' a/cs not frozen, says Adani group; NSDL confirms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Monday said accounts of three Mauritius-based funds that own the port-to-energy conglomerate's stocks were not frozen and any reports suggesting the contrary were "blatantly erroneous and misleading".

Shares of Adani group companies plunged on Monday after reports that the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) froze the accounts of the three foreign funds that are among the top stakeholders in the firms.

NSDL in an email to the group confirmed the "active" status of the accounts of its top shareholder funds.

India behind China, Pak in nuke numbers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The race for nuclear arsenal supremacy has not declined with nuclear weapon states, including Russia and the USA deploying more and more warheads operationally. India with nearly 156 nuclear warheads lags behind its arch rivals China and Pakistan.

At present, China has more than 350 warheads. Pakistan is ahead of India with more than 165 nuclear weapons at the beginning of this year as per the annual report released on Monday by the prestigious Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

At the start of last year, while India had 150 warheads, Pakistan had 160 and China had 320, the SIPRI report observed. It also said nearly all



the countries have started rapid modernisation of its nuclear weapon inventory. "China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear weapon inventory, and India and Pakistan also appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals," it said.

There are nine nuclear weapon states in the world, including India, USA, Pakistan, China, Russia, France, United Kingdom, Israel and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). *Continued on Page 11*

5% post-job cases serious, 488 succumbed: Ministry

95% of 26,000 adverse events post 23.5 crore doses mild

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday said that about 5 per cent of the total 26,000 cases of Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) were reported to be serious and severe during the period between the January 16 launch of Covid-19 vaccination nationwide drive and June 7. As many as 488 of the total AEFI cases resulted in deaths.

"These were co-incident and mainly due to co-morbidities or among the elderly," a top public health official from the Union Health Ministry said.

The remaining 95 per cent were mild cases where the people post vaccination reported pain or headache, fever or dizziness, the official said citing details available through the Co-WIN platform from 684 districts of the country.

According to the Government data, over a period of 143 days, one out of every 10,000 people vaccinated against Covid-19 developed complications after receiving the jab while two in every 10 lakh people vaccinated died. In other words, at least 2 per cent

ie. 488 of the total AEFI cases resulted in deaths, according to the officer.

In contrast, 10 deaths related to Covid 19 vaccination were confirmed between January and March first week, as maintained by the AEFI committee's report. According to the official, AEFI cases do not necessarily have a causal relationship with vaccines.

The Government has been maintaining that bleeding and clotting cases following the vaccine shots in India were minuscule and in line with the expected number of diagnoses of these conditions in the country. Presently, under the vaccination drive, Covishield and Covaxin are being given with *Continued on Page 11*

Year after SSR's death, CBI yet to finish probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even after a year of probe into the mysterious death of Bollywood film actor Sushant Singh Rajput, the CBI is yet to wrap up the investigation or solve the tangled up case.

The agency has not made much headway in terms of gathering prosecutable material to either file a chargesheet in the matter or taking a conclusive call on submitting a closure report before the competent court in the absence of pointed evidence.

While CBI remained tight-lipped on the outcome of the probe so far, official sources on Monday dished out the oft-repeated line, "the CBI continues to probe the case from all possible angles." *Continued on Page 11*

Retail inflation hits 6-month high of 6.3% in May on costlier food, fuel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rising prices of edible oils and protein rich items pushed the retail inflation to a six-month high of 6.3 per cent in May, breaching the comfort level of the Reserve Bank and thus rendering reduction in interest rates a difficult proposition in the near term.

The Government has asked the Reserve Bank to keep the retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

CPI inflation has breached the upper band of the inflation target about 10 times since the first meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which decides the key interest rate, in October 2016.

Bus station, 4-lane flyover to come up in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aiming to improve religious tourism in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government will be setting up an international standard bus station and a four-lane flyover in Ayodhya so that pilgrims visiting the holy city could have hassle free darshan at Ram temple. A cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved the proposals in Lucknow on Monday.

State government spokesperson and MSME minister Sidharth Nath Singh told mediapersons in Lucknow that around 9 acres of land will be transferred by the Culture department to the Transport department free of cost for the construction of the new bus station in Ayodhya. The new bus terminal of international standard will be constructed either on a PPP mode or by the state government at an estimated cost of Rs 400 crore.

In another decision, the state government approved a four-lane flyover on Ayodhya-Sultanpur highway to end traffic congestion in Ayodhya. "This 1.5 kilometer long flyover will be constructed at a cost of Rs 20.17 crores and land of the Education department will be transferred to the Public Works Department (PWD) for the new project," Singh said but did not give a time frame on the completion of construction.

Besides, the state government approved a 120 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant under Amrut Scheme in Lucknow so

that dirty water from Haider Canal could be treated before flowing into the river. The STP will be constructed near 1090 Crossing close to Gomti barrage. "As it will be a part of Amrut scheme, the Centre's share in this project will be of Rs 88.53 crores, the state's share will be Rs 129.15 crores and local bodies will pay for the remainder of Rs 79.69 crore," Singh said.

The UP government will also construct a new bus station in Anupshahr Nagar Palika area in Bulandshahr for which 0.236 hectare of land has been proposed. Besides, a rail over bridge (ROB) and two four-lane flyovers would be constructed with a cost of Rs 284 crores near Subedarganj railway sta-

tion in Prayagraj connecting the airport and GT Road while another two-lane flyover would be constructed from Chaupatia to Kanpur road. These ROB and flyovers were expected to end traffic congestion and facilitate smooth movement of vehicles towards Bundelkhand. "The Indian Railways will spend Rs 98 crore on the ROB," he said.

In another decision, the state cabinet decided that Development Authorities will be allowed to take up maintenance work of projects. Development authorities of Prayagraj, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Agra and other places can do maintenance work particularly in places of tourist and religious importance.

Fresh cases below 500 on second day on trot

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh recorded almost 97 per cent decline from its peak of April 24 as the state recorded only 339 cases in the last 24 hours. The cases remained below the 500-mark for the second consecutive day on Monday. Lucknow recorded 23 fresh cases, 36 recoveries and one death while active cases came down to 441.

With the reduction in fresh cases, Uttar Pradesh also recorded a sharp slide in the number of active cases to 8,111 since the peak on April 30. The cases have reduced by a remarkable 97.3 per cent in a span of 44 days.

In a big relief, none of the 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh reported more than 25 fresh Covid cases in the last 24 hours. As many as six districts (Hamirpur, Farrukhabad,

Hathras, Ambedkarnagar, Maharajganj and Mau) reported no Covid case in the last 24 hours whereas over 11 districts reported only one case each.

Only seven districts reported fresh cases in double digits, indicating that the deadly second wave is on the wane. Besides, 1,116 patients recovered in the state, pushing the recovery rate to a whopping 98.2 per cent. The test positivity rate (TPR) of Uttar Pradesh at 0.1 per cent is the lowest whereas states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra have a TPR of 10%, 12.72% and 5%, respectively.

On Sunday, 2,57,441 Covid tests were conducted, of which 1,31,650 were RT-PCR. In an encouraging sign, the number of patients in home isolation in the state has also come down to 4,049.

CITYBRIEFS



Commissioner of Police DK Thakur inaugurating the vaccination centre at the Reserve Police Lines in Lucknow on Monday

PLANTATION DRIVE

A plantation drive was organised by the department of Education, Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University, on Monday under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof Anil Kumar Shukla. Several fruit-bearing trees were planted during the drive. Shukla discussed the importance of environmental protection for the existence of mankind and stressed on the need to engage more women in creating environmental awareness in the society.

GRANDMASTER

Devaagyi Dixit, a Class IV student of City Montessori School, Mahanagar Campus, excelled with the display of his multifaceted talents. Combining his musical talent with Currenmath coding programme, Dixit created seven world records. He has represented India amongst hundreds of record-holders on a world stage and was awarded 'Grandmaster' title by World Record University of London.



ECI starts preparations for UP Assembly elections

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of India has started the preparations for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections which are due early next year. In the first phase of the preparations, the present standard of 1,500 voters per polling booth is likely to be revised to 1,000. The ECI has asked the chief electoral officer of UP to ascertain the increase in the number of booths if the number of voters per booth is fixed at 1,000-1,200.

The standard of minimum voters is being revised in the wake of the existing pandemic. The standard of 1,000 voters per booth was also adopted for the assembly elections in Bihar and West Bengal. The elections in Bihar were held in November last year and in West Bengal in April earlier this year.

The chief electoral officer of UP has sent a report to the ECI for the number of voters to be revised at 1,000 per booth. The ECI had sought the report from the CEO, UP, as soon as

the CEO gets the nod from the ECI. UP will start work on ascertaining the number of polling booths to be increased. The work on this project is likely to commence by the end of June or early July. With the change in the number of voters per booth, the polling booths of a large number of voters are likely to be relocated.

Moreover, the ECI has long been engaged in efforts to increase voter turnout. ECI makes extra efforts to identify sensitive polling booths and ensures the safety of voters as they step out to exercise their franchise. It revises electoral rolls in a timely manner and runs a fairly extensive voter turnout programme entitled SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation). While these efforts have borne fruit, there are simple institutional reforms that would increase the voter turnout. During field research, it was found that the voter turnout is less in polling booths with a larger number of electorate and when multiple

polling booths are set up within one polling centre.

The work on revising the polling booths and polling centres is likely to be completed by the end of August. The ECI will then launch the roll revision programme from September and it is expected to be completed by the end of December.

During the roll revision, the names of all those attaining the age of 18 years on January 1, 2021 will also be included in the electoral rolls. All the voters who were left out will also be included in the voter list. Along with the assembly elections in UP, the state assemblies of Uttarakhnad, Punjab, Goa and Manipur will also go to polls. The 17th UP Assembly was constituted on March 14, 2017 and the first meeting of the state assembly was held on May 15, 2017. As soon as the poll schedule is announced, the model code of conduct will come into force and all the officers and state employees will be treated as on deputation to the ECI.

UP block pramukh elections to be held from June 15 to July 3

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday announced the schedule of the block pramukh and district panchayat chairman elections which will be held from June 15 to July 3. The announcement was made by the Panchayati Raj department in consultation with the Uttar Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC).

The elected members of Kshetra Panchayat or Block Development Council (BDC) will elect the block pramukhs while elected members of district panchayats will elect the

chairman of District Panchayat or District Development Council (DDC). The elections will be held to the post of 75 district panchayat chairmen and 821 block pramukhs.

The three-tier panchayat elections were held in four phases and concluded on April 29 last. The counting of votes was held on May 2. The elections were held for 58,176 posts of village pradhan, 7.32 lakh posts of members of village panchayats, 75,852 members of kshetra panchayats and 3,050 members of district panchayats. Principal opposition party

in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party emerged as the frontrunner as at least 742 candidates for district panchayat members backed by it won the DDC member seats, compared to around 679 for the ruling BJP. However, the independents ruled the roost as they won around 1,000 DDC seats.

Around 320 candidates backed by the Bahujan Samaj Party won the DDC seats. The Congress, which has been striving to regain ground in the state, maintained that 270 contestants supported by it emerged victorious.

Make villagers aware of govt schemes: Yogi to ministers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls merely six months away, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked his ministers to visit villages in June and July and interact with local residents to learn about their problems and make them aware of government schemes.

At a meeting of the council of ministers in Lucknow on Monday, the CM said that ministers, who were already in charge of the districts, would camp in all blocks of their respective districts to inspect the development work, review their progress and interact with party



workers and people to sort out their problems. State government spokesperson Sidharth Nath Singh said in Lucknow that on the occasion of International Yoga Day, the ministers will reach out to the people in the blocks in a big way to celebrate it on June 21. Six days later on June 27, the ministers along with BJP workers will sit together in the blocks to listen to Prime Minister Nraendra Modi's 'Mann ki Baat'

programme on radio. "The ministers have been asked to cover one or two blocks in a day and there they will inspect PHCs, CHCs, schools, review food distribution schemes and the progress of the development in the area. During the 45-day programme, the ministers will also participate in plantation drives in blocks and in the organisational front, will hold small meetings with BJP workers and other people to know their problems. A plantation drive will be held across the state between June 23 and July 6, wherein the state is slated to set up a record in plantation," Singh said.

Etawah police arrest SP leader Dharmendra Yadav

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After facing sharp criticism and several suspensions over inaction, Etawah police finally managed to arrest Samajwadi Party leader and newly-elected district panchayat member Dharmendra Yadav before he could surrender before a local court on Monday. The SP leader was about to enter the court premises through gate number 3 to surrender when a joint team of Civil Lines police station and Crime Branch, dropped the net on him.

Yadav was accused of taking out a celebratory procession upon his release from Etawah jail on June 5. After a case was lodged against him, he went underground to evade arrest. After that, the police announced a reward of Rs 25,000 on the SP leader's arrest. For allowing the celebratory procession, the Etawah CO was transferred and seven policemen were suspended.

On June 4 evening, Yadav was released from Etawah district jail and on

the next day, he took out a celebratory procession with his supporters from outside the jail. After a video of the procession with joyous followers in a motorcade went viral on social media, the police registered a case against Yadav and his 200 supporters at Civil Lines police station. While in subsequent days, 39 of his supporters were arrested and 29 vehicles were seized, the SP leader managed to hoodwink the police and evade arrest.

On Monday, the police were tipped off that Yadav was about to reach the Etawah district court to surrender. A joint team was pressed into service which arrested him in the afternoon. He was later taken to Civil Lines police station and was being quizzed.

Dharmendra Yadav is Samajwadi Yuvjan Sabha chief of Auraiya and won the election of District Panchayat member from Bhagya Nagar by over 13,000 votes in the recent Panchayat polls despite being lodged in Etawah jail.

LDA parks reopen

Lucknow (PNS): A large number of people turned up at the parks, especially Janeshwar Mishra Park and Dr Ram Manohar Park in Gomtinagar, after they reopened on Monday following lockdown curbs. However, the response was lukewarm at the daytime, probably due to the heavy rainfall. Lucknow Development Authority officials said they expect better response in days to come. The parks owned by LDA were reopened for the public after three months.



NOTICE

I Swati kushwah spouse of Pratap Singh resident of LG 25 Mahabaliapuram Kalyanpur Kanpur have changed my name from Swati kushwah to Swati singh vide affidavit dated 14-06-2021 at District Court Kanpur

Murder case registered in TV journalist's death in Pratapgarh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pratapgarh police finally registered a case of murder in connection with the death of a journalist of a TV channel but the family members insisted on a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), suspecting that the local police would not conduct a fair probe.

Journalist Saurabh Srivastava (45) had launched a campaign against the liquor mafia being patronised by the local police in recent weeks. Perceiving imminent threat to his life, Srivastava had even submitted an application with ADG of Prayagraj Zone Prem Prakash for providing security cover to him which was never looked into by the top official.

In this letter, Srivastava mentioned that he had covered the arrest of the illicit liquor mafia in different police station areas of Pratapgarh district, which made the mafia very angry. The news clip was also run on the digital platform of the news channel on June

9. He also said in the letter that whenever he stepped out of the house for the last two days, it appeared that someone was chasing him. In such a situation, he felt that some liquor mafia, who was unhappy with his news items, might harm him or his family.

On Sunday, Srivastava was found grievously injured near a brick kiln on Katra Road of Nagar Kotwali area around 10 pm. On the information of passers-by, the police took him to Government Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. He was a resident of Station Road in Pratapgarh. He had bruises on his face.

The police had earlier claimed that Srivastava had died due to a road accident. The police claimed that Srivastava's bike collided with a pole and hand pump on the road which was witnessed by workers of a nearby brick kiln. They had informed the victim's family members using the victim's phone and placed the body by the side of the road.

But after his death became public,

ADG, Prayagraj, Prem Prakash, and DM & SP of Pratapgarh reached his residence and spoke to his wife, assuring them a fair probe into the murder and all kind of help. Victim's wife Renuka alleged that her husband was and demanded from ADG, Prayagraj, Prem Prakash to conduct a CBI probe into the incident, to which the ADG promised that he would recommend to the government in this regard.

Early Monday morning, after the autopsy report came in, the police registered a case of murder against unknown person under section 302 and 506 of the IPC at Kotwali police station.

BJP MP from Pratapgarh Sangam Lal Gupta wrote to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, demanding a fair investigation into the matter and mentioned about the illegal activities of the liquor mafia. Gupta said that he was distressed and hurt by the murder of the journalist which was earlier being dismissed by the police as a case of accident.

सेबंद बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India Regional Office: 73, Hazratganj, Lucknow

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Our Branches, At The Request Of You, The Following Borrowers/guarantors, Granted To you Various Credit Limits And Out Of Total Amount Due To Us You Have Defaulted In Repayment Of Entire Amount. As You Have Defaulted In Repayment Of Your Full Liabilities We Have Classified Your Dues As Non-performing Asset In Accordance With The Guidelines Of The Bank/directions Or Guidelines Issued By Reserve Bank, Of India. We Also Inform You That Inspire Of Our Repeated Notices And Oral Request For Repayment Of The Entire Amount Due To Us, You Have Not So Far Paid The Same. You Are Aware That The Various Limits Granted By Us Are Secured By The Following Assets (secured Assets.)

Branch:- RAEBAREILLY			
Sr. No.	Name And Address Of Borrowers/Owners/Mortgagors	Description of the property	Outstanding Amount
1.	Borrower:- Mr. Shiv Nath Singh S/o Mr. Durga Bux Singh. Address:- Vill Domapur Janai Tehsil Maharajganj District Raebareilly 229306 Co-Borrower:- Mr. Amit Singh S/o Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh. Address:- House No 310, Doorbhash Nagar, Raebareilly, 229001. Guarantor:- Smt. Satyawati Singh W/o Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh Address:- R/o House No 310, Doorbhash Nagar, Raebareilly, 229001.	All Part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable Mortgage Residential Plot at gata No 99(part) at Village Ramner Mohiuddinpur (Acharya Dwivedi Nagar) Raebareilly having area of 83.76 sq mtr owned by Mr. Shiv Nath Singh S/o Mr. Durga Bux Singh having following Boundries:- East- 18 feet Wide Road, West- Plot of Ram Lakhna, North- Rest land of Seller (Man Singh), South- Rest land of Seller (Man Singh).	Rs. 21,86,805/- + Interest as on 12.05.2021 Date of NPA 31.03.2021
2.	Borrower:- Smt. Satyawati Singh W/o Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh Address:- R/o House No 310, Doorbhash Nagar, Raebareilly, 229001 Co-Borrower:- Mr. Ajeet Singh S/o Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh. Address:- R/o House No 310, Doorbhash Nagar, Raebareilly, 229001. Guarantor:- Mr. Shiv Nath Singh. Address:- Vill Domapur Janai Tehsil Maharajganj District Raebareilly 229306. (2) Smt. Prabha Singh W/o Rajendra Bahadur Singh Address:- Vill Somvanshi Kheda, Bhojpur, Saraini, Tehsil Lalganj, Raebareilly, 229202	All Part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable Mortgage Residential Plot at gata No 99(part) at Village Ramner Mohiuddinpur (Acharya Dwivedi Nagar) Raebareilly having area of 83.76 sq mtr owned by Smt. Satyawati Singh W/o Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh having following Boundries:- East- Proposed Rasta 18 feet Wide, West- House of Rahul, North- Rest land of Seller (Man Singh), South- Rest land of Seller (Man Singh).	Rs. 21,83,469/- + Interest as on 12.05.2021 Date of NPA 31.03.2021
3.	Borrower:- M/s Surya Enterprises Address:- R/o- 310, Sector II, Labour Colony, Doorbhash Nagar, I.T.I, Raebareilly, 229001. Proprietor:- Mr. Amit Singh S/o Mr. Chandra Mohan Singh. Address:- R/o- 310, Sector II, Labour Colony, Doorbhash Nagar, I.T.I, Raebareilly, 229001. Guarantor:- (1) Mr. Shiv Nath Singh. Address:- Vill Domapur Janai Tehsil Maharajganj District Raebareilly 229306. (2) Smt. Prabha Singh W/o Rajendra Bahadur Singh Address:- Vill Somvanshi Kheda, Bhojpur, Saraini, Tehsil Lalganj, Raebareilly, 229202	All Part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable Mortgage Residential plot at Gata No 2657/0.17 Hect total area 253 sq. mtr at Village Chak Ahmadpur Nazool, Raebareilly owned by Smt. Prabha Singh w/o Sh. Rajendra Bahadur Singh Vill Somvanshi, Post- Bhojpur, Pargana Saraini, Tehsil Lalganj, Raebareilly, 229202 having following Boundries:- East - Proposed Kachha Raasta, West - Remaining land of seller, North - Plot Dwarika Prasad and others, South - Plot Ratnesh Pratap Singh.	Rs. 14,83,635/- + Interest as on 20.05.2021 Date of NPA 31.03.2021
4.	Borrower:- M/s Nanak Hosiery C/o M/s Manjeet Hosiery. Address:- Visambar Market, Sabzi Mandi, Distt- Raebareilly 229001. Proprietor:- Surendra Singh S/o of Mr. Rajendra Singh. Address:- House No. 29, Firoj Gandhi Nagar Colony, M.I.G. - II, Jawahar Vihar Yojna, Raebareilly 229001. Guarantor:- Smt. Ravindra Kaur W/o Surendra Singh Address:- House No. 29, Firoj Gandhi Nagar Colony, M.I.G. - II, Jawahar Vihar Yojna, Raebareilly 229001.	All Part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable Mortgage Residential property house No MIG-II-73, at Jawahar Vihar Colony, Raebareilly having area of 115.50 sq mtr owned by Smt. Ravindra Kaur W/o Surendra Singh having following Boundries:- East- House No MIG-I-42, West- 9 Mtr wide road, North- House No MIG-II-72, South- House No MIG-II-74.	Rs. 14,99,512/- + Interest as on 03.04.2021 Date of NPA 31.03.2021

for the reasons started above, we hereby call upon you to discharge in full your liabilities to us with in a periods the date of this notice, failing which we will be exercising the powers under section 13(4) of the securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest act 2002, against the secured assets mentioned above. please take note that after receipt of this notice, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior consent of the secured creditor, we draw your attention of section 29 of the securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest act 2002, which awards imprisonment upto one year of with fine, or with both, if you contravene the provisions of the act.

The Borrowers Attention is Invited To Provisions Of Sub-section (8) Of Section 13 Of The Act. In Respect Of Time Available, To Redeem The Secured Assets.

Place: Raebareilly, Date- 15.06.2021 Authorised Officer, Central Bank Of India

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30% population in 45-plus group vaccinated in UP

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Thirty per cent of the population in the 45+ category has been vaccinated in the state so far. The estimated population of this group in Uttar Pradesh is 4,32,02,130. Giving this information, State Immunisation Officer Dr Ajay Ghai said they would expedite the drive from July 1 onwards.

Besides, only 40 lakh people have been vaccinated as against the target of 9.28 crore in the 18-43 years age group. Dr Ghai said that the total doses administered till June 13 were 22,956,010, of which the first dose coverage was 14 per cent (19,160,094) and the second dose coverage was 3 per cent (3,795,916).

"We are still not planning to open the on-spot registration for the 18-43 years age category because that would increase the crowd at the vaccination centres to a large extent and Covid protocols would not be followed. 4.5 lakh vaccinations are taking place per day currently," he said.

Dr Ghai said the rains did impact the vaccination drive as people from villages and far-off areas did not step out. "On Monday, 42,000 people had been vaccinated across the state till 11 am but the figure would otherwise have been 50,000 by that time," he pointed out. However, he said those who booked the slots were likely to come sooner or later.

"Eighty per cent of those who have booked their slots turn up because they think that they may not get it after that," he added.

Talking about the vaccination of vendors which started from Monday, he said one centre in each district has been created for them. In Lucknow the centre has been created at the Nagar Nigam headquarters. Another centre has been set up at the RTO for



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inspecting a vaccination centre for roadside vendors at Mall Avenue on Monday. Pioneer

drivers. "Although the district administration can take a call, we have recommended on-site registration at these centres," he said.

Nodal Covid officer at KGMU Dr Nishant Verma said the turnout was 50 per cent less because of the rains. "Even those who booked the slots have not turned up in the last three days," he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Nagar Swasthya Adhikari Sunil Rawat said that vendors were informed by zonal officers to get vaccinated. "These vendors are the beneficiaries of various schemes of Nagar Nigam and were informed by the zonal officers. The corporators have also been involved in the exercise so that the message reaches all parts of the city. We have around 12,000 workers who are trying to reach out to everyone and we are making announcements in all the mar-

kets about the vaccination drive for vendors," he said.

Rajesh Kumar Gupta, who sells puffed rice outside the high court, received the vaccine on Monday. The 42-year-old vendor said no one else in his family had been vaccinated till now.

Archit Singh, who sells bags in Aminabad, also got his first vaccine dose. The 21-year-old said he was informed by his uncle about the vaccination camp. "Vendors are keen on getting vaccinated but it is difficult to get a slot," he pointed out.

A vaccination camp was also organised on Monday by the Passport Office for its employees and their families. President of Passport Employees' Association Sanjay Verma said 82 people in the 18-44 age group and 24 in the 45+ category got their first dose on Monday. Three of the

beneficiaries were those who got their second, including a 94-year-old man.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took stock of the vaccination drive at Children's Palace Municipal Nursery School where street vendors were jabbed. He also interacted with the beneficiaries and gave away vaccination certificates to them.

Yogi said the battle against the pandemic was underway and vaccination had a major role to play in it. "In UP, 38,055 Covid cases were reported on April 24 and but only 338 cases emerged today. On April 30, there were 3,10,780 active cases but by following the 'Trace, Test and Treat' (T3) strategy, the active cases have come down to 8,111," he said.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing two vaccines.

Akhilesh spreading canard against Yogi govt, says Suresh Khanna

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

UP's Finance Minister Suresh Khanna on Monday accused Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav of spreading a canard and making unfounded and baseless allegations to malign the image of the Yogi Adityanath government.

Khanna said that the SP chief was rattled by the achievements of the BJP government and that the "politically bankrupt opposition party" had no issue to fight the Yogi government. "The Yogi Adityanath government has given the benefits of welfare schemes to all sections of society irrespective of caste and creed, winning praise from the common people. It has unnerved the Samajwadi Party, forcing its leaders to create a web of lies and level baseless allegations against the government," Khanna said.

The CM displayed political courage and implemented reservation in government jobs for the upper caste poor, he said. He added that the government, besides successfully managing the Covid pandemic, also created a record in making payments to the cane growers. "So far, the state government has purchased over 52 lakh MT of wheat from the farmers under the Minimum Support Price scheme and made direct payment of over Rs 10,000 crore to the farmers. Sugar mills have also cleared the payment of over Rs 1.36 lakh crore to the sugarcane farmers so far," he pointed out.

The minister claimed that the SP leaders were jittery over the achievements of the UP government as it successfully brought the second wave under control. He claimed that the growing popularity of Yogi Adityanath had shaken the foundation of the Samajwadi Party which had nothing to do except levelling false and baseless allegations against the government.

Rains trigger waterlogging woes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Blashed the city on Monday, making the weather pleasant. However, the perpetual problem of waterlogging troubled the residents. The state capital received 20.7 mm rainfall till 8.30 am and 8.4 mm from 8 am till 5:30 pm.

Met director JP Gupta said that the southwest monsoon would arrive in Lucknow in the next two days. Residents woke up to a downpour which continued till late afternoon.

The maximum temperature dropped by 11.2 degrees as the city recorded the maximum temperature at 27.7 degree Celsius. The local forecast is generally cloudy sky with rains and thundershowers in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 30 degree Celsius and 24 degree Celsius, respectively.

In the state, rains are likely at many places over the state. Thunderstorm, accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph), is likely at isolated places. Heavy to very heavy rains are likely at isolated places of eastern and western UP. Varanasi received 62.1 mm rainfall, followed by Bahraich (61.6 mm rainfall).

Met officials said that the southwest monsoon has advanced into the entire Peninsula, east central and east and north eastern India and some parts of northwest India in association with active monsoon circulations and formation of a low-pressure area.

"However, due to the approaching mid-latitude west-



Commuters wading through a waterlogged road. Pioneer

erlies winds, further progress of the monsoon over remaining parts of northwest India is likely to be slow. The northern limit of monsoon is passing through Diu, Surat, Nandurbar, Bhopal, Nowgong, Hamirpur, Barabanki, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Ambala and Amritsar," the officials said.

Meanwhile, several areas faced waterlogging issues due to the heavy rains. Municipal Commissioner Ajay Kumar Dwivedi said they attended to the problems based on complaints by residents.

Mayor Sanjukta Bhatia inspected some areas in Sarvodayanagar, Indiranagar,

Kurwanchal Nagar and Shakti Nagar where pumping stations were used to take out the rainwater. It was brought to her knowledge that PWD and Irrigation department officials were indulging in blame game in Lal Bahadur Shastri (II) ward. She visited the area on the complaint of the corporator. She also inspected the flood pumping station at Kukrail Bandha and it was found that because of the lack of coordination between PWD and Irrigation department, there was a problem of backflow as well. After the intervention of the mayor, the barrel gate was closed to prevent the backflow of water.

Three killed in road mishap

Lucknow (PNS): Three employees of a shopping mall were killed in a road mishap near Kisan Path under Gosainganj police station area on Sunday night. The victims were identified as Pradeep Kumar Kashyap (32), Santosh Kumar (both of Thakurganj) and Awadhesh Bharti of Arjunganj in Gosainganj.

As per reports, the trio were returning home on a bike from a birth party. Around 10 pm, when they reached near a building which houses a software company office, the bike rammed into a tractor-trolley which was wrongly parked on the road.

In his complaint, Pradeep's brother Ashok said the tractor-trolley driver had parked the vehicle in an area where there

were no lights and Santosh who was driving the motorcycle could not see it. The trio suffered grievous injuries and they died on the spot.

He said that the carelessness on the part of the tractor-trolley-driver claimed the life of his brother and two others. Police registered a case in this connection and launched a manhunt for the tractor-trolley driver.

Friend among 3 arrested for girl student's murder

Lucknow (PNS): The BSc (I) girl student, whose body was recovered from the forest cover in Sarojininaragar on Saturday night, was killed for turning down an indecent proposal of her friend. Police made this claim after arresting three youths, including the victim's friend Mohammed Kaif of Azadnagar (Sarojininaragar). His aides Akash Yadav and Vishal Kashyap were also arrested. The police recovered the knife used by the accused.

The police said Kaif lured the girl into going along with him. As the girl's father was not home while her mother had gone to their native house in Sitapur, the girl agreed to go along with her friend.

Kaif told the police that his friends came to know about his clandestine meeting with the girl as he was with them when he called her on Saturday evening. As per plan, Kaif used Vishal's brother's bike to take the girl to the forest cover in Gahru village. The police said Kaif had physical relations with the girl and also asked her to be physical with his friends.

As per Kaif's confession, the girl expressed shock and threatened to lodge a case against them. Akash and Vishal pinned her down and raped her. The girl raised an alarm but there was no one to help her. The girl somehow freed herself from their clutches and started running away. However, Akash pinned her down again while Vishal stabbed her repeatedly. Kaif said he and his aides killed her as they feared she would land them in trouble. The victim had suffered 16 stab wounds.

Kaif is the prime accused as he had an affair with the girl and she trusted him. The police said the murder took place when she refused to accept the indecent proposal of Kaif and his aides attempted to force themselves on her. They strangled her to death with her dupatta and also attacked her with a knife.

The police got the lead after the girl's father told them about her affair with Kaif. The police scanned the call detail records of the victim and it surfaced that she had talked to Kaif. The police rounded him up and also his aides.

Newlywed woman done to death for family's 'honour'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A newlywed was done to death by her parents as they were opposed to her marrying the man of her choice in Meerut. Saina died barely 13 days after her marriage, with her parents claiming that she succumbed to Covid. However, on her husband Farmaan's (30) complaint, the police got her body exhumed and booked her family for murder. Farmaan alleged that Saina (27) was killed by her family members because she had married against their wishes.

Saina of Lisadi Gate area got married to Farmaan and they got their marriage registered on May 17. On the night of May 31, Saina died under mysterious circumstances at her home. Farmaan claimed he was told by his in-laws that Saina complained of stomach ache and later succumbed. However, recently, he was tipped-off that his wife could have been killed by her parents who were unhap-

py with the marriage. In his complaint, Farmaan said he was in possession of an audio recording which was testimony to the torture of his wife by the parents as they attempted to kill her. A case of murder, disappearance of evidence and criminal conspiracy was registered against six named accused, including the father and uncle of Saina at Lisadi Gate police station. An audio recording was given to the police which was being examined for its veracity. The report of the autopsy was also awaited to learn about the cause of death.

Elsewhere in Bijnore, a 20-year-old was arrested for allegedly killing his 15-year-old sister for not ending her relationship with a youth from the neighbourhood. The police claimed that the family was planning to dispose of the girl's body when they arrived at their house - the scene of crime. The accused works as a welder in Delhi and returned home three days ago. The police said the

minor returned home two days ago after allegedly eloping with a 20-year-old youth from the neighbourhood around two weeks back.

On being tipped off about the girl being killed on Sunday, a police team swooped at the house and seized the body in the morning. In his complaint, the girl's father informed the police that his son had beaten the victim to death after which the girl's brother was arrested.

During preliminary probe, it surfaced that the neighbourhood youth with whom the girl had eloped was a distant relative and hence the girl's family was against the relationship. Locals told the police that on Sunday morning, the accused was trying to convince his sister to distance herself from the youth to which the girl refused. This led to a heated argument after which the accused started thrashing her. She suffered serious injuries and fell to the ground and was later strangled by the brother.

REDUCTION IN THE FREQUENCY AND REVISED TIMINGS OF CLONE SPECIAL TRAINS

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that due to operational reason Railways have decided to reduce the frequency of Train No. 03391/03392 Rajgir - New Delhi - Rajgir and revised timings of Train No. 03391 Rajgir - New Delhi following clone special train, as per the details given below:-

Train No. & Name	Existing Frequency	Revised Frequency	With effect from
03391 Rajgir - New Delhi Clone Special Express	Daily	4 days in a week (Sun, Mon, Wed & Thu)	16.06.2021 to 15.07.2021
03392 New Delhi - Rajgir Clone Special Express	Daily	4 days in a week (Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri)	17.06.2021 to 16.07.2021

REVISED TIMINGS OF 03391 RAJGIR - NEW DELHI CLONE SPECIAL EXPRESS AT VARANASI & LUCKNOW STATIONS

STATION	TRAIN NO. 03391 (Rajgir - New Delhi)				With effect from
	Existing Timing		Revised Timing		
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.	
Varanasi	13:40	13:50	14:05	14:15	16.06.21 to 15.07.21
Lucknow	18:05	18:15	18:15	18:25	

For any other information passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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कोविड-19 लक्षणयुक्त 18 वर्ष तक के बच्चों हेतु निःशुल्क दवाई-किट का शुभारम्भ

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

दिनांक : 15 जून, 2021 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान : 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा (उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश) | **जय प्रताप सिंह** (मंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण तथा मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश) | **अतुल गर्ग** (राज्य मंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण तथा मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश)

12 माह तक के बच्चों हेतु | 1-5 वर्ष तक के बच्चों हेतु | 6-12 वर्ष तक के बच्चों हेतु | 12-18 वर्ष तक के बच्चों हेतु

प्रदेश में 18 आयु वर्ग से अधिक के समस्त नागरिकों हेतु कोविड टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम संचालित किया जा रहा है। प्रदेश सरकार की अभिनव पहल की कड़ी में जनपदों में ऑटो स्विक्षा, टेम्पो, बस इत्यादि के ड्राइवर फेरी लगाकर आजीविका कमाने वाले ई-स्विक्षा के चालकों के लिए 14 जून, 2021 से विशेष टीकाकरण

कोरोना की जंग में हर जीवन अनमोल

समस्त जानकारियों हेतु सम्पर्क करें 104

आइए, ऐसी लहर कलारें, उचित व्यवहार से कोविड को हराएं। सफाई भी - दवाई भी - कड़ाई भी

Yellow fungus patient undergoes surgery

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

A yellow fungus infected patient was operated upon in a private hospital in the district. This is the first case of yellow fungus in the district.

At the same time, 20 black fungus patients are admitted in SRN Hospital. According to Dr. Sujit Verma, co-in-charge of Corona SRN Hospital, six black fungus patients have been operated on while 14 are being treated.

Symptoms of yellow fungus were not found in any patient. Dr Mangal Singh, principal of the private sector Covid Center United Medicity, said that a 73-year-old man who recovered from COVID-19 was confirmed to have yellow fungus infection after testing.

Since the infection was in its initial stage, he underwent surgery. Dr. Prabhat Srivastava was also included in the team that operated on the infected patient.

11 test +ve in Varanasi

PNS ■ VARANASI

Varanasi district recorded a slight increase in COVID-19 cases as 11 people tested positive for novel coronavirus infection during the past 24 hours taking the tally of confirmed cases to 82,109, as per the figures released by the Health department on Monday evening.

With three COVID-19 deaths during the last 24 hours, the death toll increased to 770.

As many as 30 COVID-19 patients recovered during the past 24 hours, 19 in home isolation and 11 in hospitals. With this, 81,083 COVID-19 patients have been cured in the district - 7,4828 in home isolation and 6,255 in Covid hospitals.

The vaccination drive continued on Monday at 135 vaccination centres, including 87 for the beneficiaries above 45 years and 48 for the beneficiaries between 18 and 44 ages. Besides, vaccination was also held at eight centres for the working employees aged between 18 and 44 years, and at three centres for parents and at two centres for working women.

He said that earlier on May 24, a yellow fungus patient was found in Ghaziabad. Information has been given to the CMO in this regard.

They have been requested to provide Amphotericin B injection for the patient.

There is no injection in the market, only the patients admitted in SRN are being given Amphotericin B injections provided by the government.

Heavy rain leaves many areas water-logged

PNS ■ VARANASI

After a long time, the monsoon in this part of Purvanchal (eastern UP) came before its scheduled time. Monsoon normally reaches the region between June 18 and June 24. However, on Monday afternoon, the heavy rains lashed the city, paralysing normal life for hours and leaving many areas water-logged.

Due to rains, the markets wore a deserted look in the evening hours even when they had reopened after weekend Covid curfew. Due to water-logging in many main markets, including Godowlia, Dashashwamedh, Nai Sarak, Luxa and others, the movement of people was restricted and this disappointed the traders who were expecting a good evening rush of customers till relaxation time of 7 pm.

The rain also disrupted power supply for hours in many areas apart from affecting air services.

Besides, lightning also hit many parts of the region. In Mirzapur district many people sustained burns due to lightning. In Andhapul, several two-wheelers and three-wheelers were stranded and movement of vehicles was slowed down. Several places, including Teliabagh, Ravindrapuri Colony, Khojwa, Nabaganj and Mahmooorganj in the city areas and Panchkoshi Marg, Jakhani Road, Raja Talab and others in rural areas witnessed



Andhapul underpass sees water-logging after rain in Varanasi on Monday

water-logging.

The city also received rain during Sunday night and due to which the temperature fell down sharply, giving the people a lot of reliefs from humidity as during the last 24 hours the maximum tem-

perature was recorded at 32.6 degree Celsius which was seven degrees less than the normal, while the minimum temperature was 25 degree Celsius, which was three degree less than the normal.

Probe begins against SRNH clerk who taking inflated salary

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

Investigation has started into the case of a junior clerk taking a salary of Rs 88,000 per month in Suroop Rani Nehru Hospital (SRNH), Principal of Motilal Nehru Medical College, Dr. SP Singh, had set up a three-member inquiry committee headed by the finance controller.

Along with this, after seeing the clerk's salary slips of two months, the matter has been found prima facie correct. The clerk was shifted from SRNH Hospital and attached to SPM department of Motilal Nehru Medical College. Taking cognisance of the news that a clerk in SRNH Hospital was drawing a salary of Rs 88,000 per month, the principal of Motilal Nehru Medical College, Finance Controller Shivendra Singh, Professor Mohit Jain and Purchase Secretary Dr Rajesh Kumar Rai held a meeting and constituted the inquiry committee. It was found that the junior clerk was drawing more salary than the senior clerk and the head of the office. The government has already been informed in this regard. Further action will be taken against the clerk after the complete investigation report is received.

Police realise Rs 12 cr as fine during Covid restrictions

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

The COVID-19 period brought many troubles to the common people. Along with health, they had to face troubles at the financial level as well. But the surprising thing is that even during this period more than Rs 12 crore was realised in the district as penalty.

This amount was the fine police realised from people of the district for violating traffic rules and not wearing masks. It is also worth noting here that the above figure is only of the Covid curfew period while the figure of total fines for violation of traffic rules is many times more.

Along with the coronavirus crisis, there was a lockdown in the district last year. During this period, those who ventured out with their vehicles unnecessarily were fined for violating traffic rules. When the COVID-19 outbreak subsided,

COVID-19 patient's body buried at ghat cremated by municipal corporation

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

With the start of rain, once again the erosion of the Ganga has started. On Monday, two more bodies of COVID-19 patients buried in the sand came out after the erosion at Phaphamau Ghat.

The municipal corporation cremated both the bodies. With this, 13 bodies have been cremated so far. Concern has increased about more dead

bodies buried in sand coming out due to erosion in the Ganga. More than 10 bodies have been buried in the sand, just a foot away from where the erosion is taking place. There is a possibility of those dead bodies coming out as the erosion increases. The dead bodies buried in the sand during the COVID-19 period have started coming out one by one after the erosion started on the banks of the Ganga. On

Monday, two bodies buried in the sand at Phaphamau Ghat came out due to erosion. The members of the monitoring committee informed the municipal officials after the bodies came out. On getting information, Zonal Officer Neeraj Kumar Singh immediately reached Phaphamau Ghat with the team. After this both those dead bodies were brought out with the help of labourers and cremated.

the action was relaxed in the middle, but this year again action was started during the Covid curfew. Action was taken on violation of traffic rules along with other cases of violation of masks and Covid guidelines.

If we look at the action

taken by the police, it is known that a total of 1.79 lakh vehicles have been challaned so far after the lockdown was imposed last year and this year after the Covid curfew. The amount of challan starts from Rs 500 for different offences of violation of traffic rules. If the

calculation is done on this basis, then the total amount of fine collected is Rs 8.95 crore. In this way, only during the action taken on violation of traffic rules during lockdown and Covid curfew, about Rs 9 crore was recovered.

According to the data of

the Police department, 2.68 lakh challans were issued from the implementation of the lockdown last year i.e. from March 22 to April 21.

If the amount of fine of Rs 100 per challan is considered, then Rs 2.68 crore was recovered only for not wearing the masks. Action on violation of traffic rules was not limited to challans during the lockdown and Covid curfew.

During this, action was also taken to seize the vehicles. According to police department figures, more than 500 vehicles were seized.

ADG Zone Prayagraj Prem Prakash said that the purpose of issuing challan or other action was to make people aware of the need to take precautions against coronavirus. He said action would continue on violation of guidelines related to prevention from coronavirus not only in Prayagraj but in all eight districts of the zone.

Boats back in the Ganga

PNS ■ VARANASI

Since the restrictions imposed on the movement of boats during the second wave of novel coronavirus pandemic, the activities on the internationally famous 84-odd ghats have increased as the boats were back in the mid-stream of the holy river Ganga here on Monday.

Boating in river Ganga is one of the major attractions of the local people as well as the tourists. For the last one week, not only the boatmen but also some political parties were raising the demand to ease restrictions on boating as the boatmen were facing a livelihood crisis. Just a few days back, the demand of boatmen to sail in the river Ganga was accepted by the local administration when the latter gave conditional permission to move their boats from June 14 between 7 am and 7 pm, mak-



ing it mandatory for the boat operators to get vaccinated.

Due to permission, in the morning hours a rush of people was seen at different ghats though it was not a bathing festival. The people, along with their families, were seen enjoying boat rides in the river. However, as the city was lashed by heavy rains in the late afternoon hours, the evening rush at the ghats was missing.

The boatmen are facing a crisis of livelihood as the boats

have remained moored to the ghats for long and as the arrival of monsoon in this region is around the corner and there is a possibility of floods, the boatmen fear that the present crisis would be doubled as to avoid mishaps, generally the district administration imposes ban on movement of boats if the water level in the river rises. In such a situation, the permission to run boats has given a lot of relief to the boatmen.

World Blood Donor Day observed

PNS ■ VARANASI

The volunteers of several organisations donated blood on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day here on Monday.

A month-long campaign, which would continue till July 13, was inaugurated at Shiv Prasad Gupta (SSPG), Divisional Hospital, under the leadership of Blood Bank in-charge Dr RK Singh.

On the occasion, the volunteers of many organisations donated their blood.

Important among those who participated in the blood donation camp were Ravi Kumar Singh, Dr Prashant Singh, Dr CP Gupta, Dr Neha Verma, Dr Swa Singh, Manisha Rai and Kirti Verma.

The blood donation camp continued till 5 pm and people donated 18 units of blood.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr Prasanna Kumar.

Besides, like the previous year, a blood donation camp was also organised under the auspices of Sadhana Foundation, in which MLA Saurabh Srivastava was the chief guest. He inaugurated the camp and lauded Sadhana Foundation for serving people



World Blood Donor Day being observed at SSH BHU in Varanasi on Monday

by organising blood donation camps for the last 10 years.

He said that the founder of the organisation, Saurabh Maurya, himself had created a world record by donating blood 111 times, which was a matter of pride for the city.

Saurabh Maurya, while encouraging all the blood donors, said that World Blood Donor Day was not just a day a festival.

Shashi Kumar, convener of BJP IT Cell (Kashi region),

said that voluntary blood donation was considered a mahadaan as one person saved four lives by donating one unit of blood.

A total of 12 units of blood were collected in the camp.

Among those who donated blood were Sadhana Foundation secretary Abhay Maurya, Deep Sinha, Rashmi Singh, Sanjay Singh.

Earlier, on the eve of the day, a blood donation camp was organised under the joint

auspices of Blood Centre of Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH), Kashi Blood Donation Kumbh and Small Industries Association.

This blood donation camp was organised in the outdoor department of Trauma Centre in Banaras Hindu University (BHU). As many as 32 people donated blood. The entire team of the SSH Blood Centre was present along with Dr Sandeep Kumar, Dr Manish Nigam and Ashutosh Singh.

Chain-snatchers gang busted; three held

PNS ■ VARANASI

The police on Monday claimed to have busted a gang of chain-snatchers with the arrest of its three members with gold weighing 6.50 grams.

It may be mentioned here that several chain-snatching incidents took place in various parts of the city during the past few days, throwing a challenge before the police. Taking a serious note of it, Commissioner of Police A Satish Ganesh had directed the cops to crack down on the criminals committing such incidents.

During a vehicle-checking drive at Assi after midnight on Sunday, the Bhelupur police were tipped-off about the presence of criminals involved in chain-snatching that took place near Baba Kinaram Ashram in Ravindrapuri.

Acting on the information, the cops raided the place and succeeded in arresting a criminal, identified as Manish Singh Chauhan (21) of Shivaji Nagar under Lanka police station.

While confessing his crime, the arrested criminal informed the police that he along with his aides snatched the chain of a woman when she was passing Kinaram Ashram on an autorickshaw and sold the snatched chain to Rakesh Kumar Verma who was learning the profession of gold smith. He melted the golden chain and sold it to one Vitthal Bhagat for Rs 13,000.

He and his gang members were addicted to liquor and committed crime for this, the arrested criminal informed the cops.

On the basis of information provided by Manish, the police also nabbed Rakesh and Vitthal, ACP Bhelupur, Chakrapani Tripathi told media persons and added, the police recovered a gold block weighing 6.50 gram from the possession of the arrested miscreants.

DM directive to complete tapping of Assi nullah within 15 days

PNS ■ VARANASI

Annoyed with the implementing agency for not maintaining the quality in constructing the tap on the Assi nullah to stop the discharge of sewage water into the river Ganga, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma on Monday took its qualitative engineer to task and directed him to complete the construction of retaining wall to tap the nullah within 15 days.

The water of Ganga will be pure and pollution-free after the completion of construction of the retaining wall for which the city dwellers have been waiting for a long time, the DM hoped.

While inspecting the pumping station at Nagawa from where the sewage water is diverted towards sewage treatment plant (STP) in Ramana, the DM noticed that the implementing agency, Essel Infra,

had not constructed the retaining wall to tap the Assi nullah.

Taking a serious note of this gross negligence, he took the quality engineer to task and asked him to complete the construction of the retaining wall within 15 days. After the construction of the retaining wall, the water Ganga will be pure and pollution-free.

The DM also inspected the tapping work of sewage nullahs at Samne Ghat and took the junior engineer of Ganga Pollution to task for the delay in diverting the sewage water and directed him to complete the work at the earliest so that the sewage water could be stopped from flowing into the Ganga.

The tapping of some nullahs are being carried out to stop the discharge of sewage water in the Ganga by diverting it towards STP. He said this work was to be completed by the end of this month.

The DM also inspected the works being carried out at Assi Ghat to make the water of Ganga pure. "Experts have expressed concern that there is degradation of ghats because of the flow of the river and they have suggested a parallel water flow to balance the flow of Ganga as with this the degradation of ghats could be stopped.

The technical experts of the Irrigation department examined the ghats and drafted a project to develop a parallel water flow to the water flow of Ganga," he said and made it clear that there will be no change in the nature of Ganga with this technique and the holy river.

The officers of Namami Gange Project have received bioremediation chemicals with which the work of destroying green algae is being carried out successfully, the DM told media persons.

Shaheedi gurpurab observed

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the auspices of the Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, the Shaheedi gurpurab of the fifth Guru Arjan Dev was observed at the gurdwara in Gurubagh here on Monday.

Narindar Singh of the gurdwara recited Gurubani in the morning and kirtan was also held.

The devotees, particularly Sikhs, had darshan of Gurughar virtually through social media platform. A langar of Guru was held at the gurdwaras in Gurubagh and Nichibagh.

Besides, the chabil of cold sweet water was also distributed among people at various places of the city by the devotees.

The devotees in large numbers also visited the gurdwara for darshan of their Guru.

Chief granthi of gurdwara in Nichibagh and Mahant Singh of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee extended their wishes to the devotees on the occasion.



Sahidi Purv of Guru Arjan Dev being observed in Varanasi on Monday



Women donating blood during a donation camp on the occasion of World Blood donor day in Prayagraj on Monday

AMA lecture on management of thoughts

Allahabad (PNS): Allahabad Management Association organised a lecture on Zoom for its members. The topic was management of thoughts. The key speaker was Sanjeev Sareen, ex-unit head of Reliance Manufacturing Industry.

Sareen spoke about the thought process and how it

could be directed to give positivity in life. He said the thought habits determined one's talent, personality and abilities. He said thought was a well defined matrix of all creations and could even change the matter.

As many as 62 participants had registered for the session.

Other guests from National Coalfield, Alumni Association of KP Inter College, Mind XL, and ISTD also took part in the deliberations.

Dr Shanti Chaudhri, PRO, and OP Goel assisted in organising the event.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Ravi Prakash, president of the association.

Pvt hosps flay vaccine procurement policy

PNS ■ KANPUR

Majority of the private hospitals have strongly condemned the opacity in Covid vaccine distribution to private hospitals. They have approached the Kanpur Nursing Homes Association to take up the issue with the government. They claimed that the vaccination drive had failed to take off to the desired numbers mainly because of no clear policy on vaccine procurement. They decried the government decision to allow only 25 per cent vaccines to the private sector.

Dr Samarth Trivedi of GT Nursing Home said the entire country's private hospitals had demanded hundred per cent universally free vaccines as well. He said the current policy was totally unclear on the procurement of Covid vaccines. He said there should be a proper mechanism and a single-window system for procurement of vaccine doses. He said the manufacturers were tight-lipped on the issue as well.

Wellness Hospital Director

Dr Atul Agarwal said the major problem was that there was no clarity on how private hospitals would be procuring the vaccines. He said the UP government had put them on tenterhooks and the tentative date was June 21 which was likely to be extended to July, 2021. He said it appeared contradictory that on the one hand the UP government was making much hullabaloo over the third wave and on the other it had failed to spell out vaccination procurement terms.

Dr Prem Gandhi from Gandhi Hospital said the vaccinations at most of the private hospitals were on hold and the public, especially those patients who needed the second doses, were at the receiving end. He appealed to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to come out with a transparent and clear guideline on the issue. He alleged that the private hospitals were being allowed to charge up to Rs 1,000 for each jab although there was a demand that the government should cap it at Rs 250 at the most.

Speed up beautification of Nanarao Park: DC

PNS ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, while carrying out an inspection of the Nanarao Park (earlier known as Memorial Well) on Monday, directed the officials concerned to give further momentum to the restructuring and beautification works of the historical park.

He admitted that the work was delayed by around two months because of COVID-19 and the lockdown. He said now every effort would be made to make up the lost time to complete the work on time.

The divisional commissioner said the work included construction of walking track, bicycle track, synthetic jogging track and also the restoration and strengthening of the Memorial Well.

He said the total cost of the project was around Rs 11 crore and as of now work orders of Rs 9 crore had been issued and work was already in progress.

He said the work progress was around 30 per cent as on



in the project. Dr Shekhar directed Municipal Commissioner Akshay Tripathi to include a few important but left out works like installation of music system along the walking track, public address system, CCTVs at entry and exit points and proper signage. He said these new works would be sanctioned under the Smart City project. He said the project would be taken up by the Smart City Corporation in this financial year.

Looking into the historical importance of the Memorial Well Monument at Nana Rao Park, he directed KMC to prepare a project for son et lumiere at the park in association with the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). He said it should have a seating capacity of 300 persons to begin with and later extended to 500 persons if it was.

The divisional commissioner was accompanied by Kanpur municipal commissioner and representatives of the agency.

He added that the basic works of cycle track, synthetic jogging track were nearly accomplished. The divisional commissioner said works relating to the boundary wall (of cast iron) and Memorial Well and landscaping were in progress. He said looking into the present pace of work, the pending works of Nana Rao Park would be completed by September 2021.

He warned the contractor and engineer against poor quality finishing work and asked them to ensure best quality as per the specification laid down

Kamakhya-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra weekly special from June 27

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration keeping the convenience of passengers in mind will run the 05655 Kamakhya-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (SVDK) weekly special train from Kamakhya on every Sunday from June 27 and 05656 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Kamakhya weekly special train from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on every Wednesday from June 30 till further order. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved class and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

The 05655 Kamakhya - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra weekly special train will from June 27 till further orders on every Sunday depart till from Kamakhya at 11.00 hrs, depart from Goalpara at 12.40 hrs, from New Bongaigaon at 14.05 hrs, from Kokrajhar at 14.32 hrs, from New Alipurduar at 15.30 hrs, from New Coach Behar at 16.05 hrs, from Dhubpur at 16.56 hrs, from New Jalpaiguri at 18.30 hrs, from Kishanganj at 19.37 hrs, from Barsoi at 20.27 hrs, from Katihar at 22.20 hrs, from Naugachia at 23.09 hrs, from Khagaria at 23.59 hrs, from Begusarai on the second day at

00.33 hrs, from Barauni at 01.25 hrs, from Samastipur at 03.00 hrs, from Laheria Sarai at 03.33 hrs, from Darbhanga at 03.50 hrs, from Sitamarhi at 04.55 hrs, from Raxaul at 06.45 hrs, from Sagauli at 07.10 hrs, from Bettiah at 08.03 hrs, from Narkatiaganj at 09.00 hrs, from Kaptanganj at 12.45 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 14.40 hrs, from Khalilabad at 15.20 hrs, from Basti at 15.49 hrs, from Gonda at 17.15 hrs, from Sitapur at 20.25 hrs, on the third day from Bareilly at 00.02 hrs, from Moradabad at 01.48 hrs, from Laksar at 03.51 hrs, from Saharanpur at 05.10 hrs, from Ambala Cantt at 06.45 hrs, from Ludhiana at 08.35 hrs, from Jalandhar Cantt at 10.05 hrs, from Pathankot Cantt at 12.00 hrs, Jammu Tawi at 13.53 hrs, Udhampur at 15.05 hrs and reach Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 15.45 hrs.

On the other hand, in return journey the 05656 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Kamakhya weekly special train will from June 30 till further orders on every Wednesday depart from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra at 03.45 hrs, from Udhampur at 04.11 hrs, Jammu Tawi at 05.45 hrs, from Pathankot Cantt at 07.45 hrs, from Jalandhar Cantt at 09.42 hrs, from Ludhiana 10.50 hrs, from Ambala Cantt at 13.02 hrs, from Saharanpur at 14.30

hrs, from Laksar at 15.22 hrs, from Moradabad at 18.03 hrs, from Bareilly at 19.27 hrs, from Sitapur at 22.58 hrs, from Gonda on the second day at 01.45 hrs, from Basti at 02.59 hrs, from Khalilabad at 03.23 hrs, from Gorakhpur at 04.35 hrs, from Kaptanganj at 05.25 hrs, from Narkatiaganj at 07.13 hrs, from Bettiah at 07.42 hrs, from Sagauli at 08.02 hrs, from Raxaul at 08.33 hrs, from Sitamarhi at 09.50 hrs, from Darbhanga at 13.35 hrs, from Laheria Sarai at 13.44 hrs, from Samastipur at 15.05 hrs, from Barauni at 16.40 hrs, from Begusarai at 16.58 hrs, from Khagaria at 17.38 hrs, from Naugachia at 18.58 hrs, from Katihar at 21.55 hrs, from Barsoi at 22.02 hrs, from Kishanganj at 22.50 hrs, from New Jalpaiguri on the third day at 01.10 hrs, from Dhubpur at 02.20 hrs, from New Coach Behar at 03.45 hrs, from New Alipurduar at 05.00 hrs, from Kokrajhar at 06.09 hrs, from New Bongaigaon at 07.35 hrs, from Goalpara at 08.45 hrs and reach Kamakhya at 11.30 hrs.

A total of 22 coaches, including two of generator-cum-luggage van, four of general second class, 10 of sleeper class, five of air-conditioned third class and one of air-conditioned second class coach will be attached in this train.

DM inaugurates blood donation camp

PNS ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Alok Tiwari, while inaugurating a blood donation camp at Onkareshwar Saraswati Vidya Niketan in Jawahar Nagar on Monday appealed to people to liberally donate blood for saving lives.

The blood donation camp was organised to mark the World Blood Donation Day. The district magistrate said there was still a wide chasm between the demand and supply of blood and this engendered the need for more awakening among the masses to donate blood.

Honorary secretary of Indian Red Cross Society, RK Saffad, said there was no restriction for blood donation by healthy people between 18 years and 60 years. He said it was a matter of concern that even today blood donation was a taboo and majority refrained from donating blood not only to others but even to their dear and near ones. He said on account of this the mercenary donors were still surviving and were a big health threat to the persons who were administered the blood.

He extended his wishes to the management of the school and said the objective of the blood donation camp was not only to arrange blood to save lives but also to make people understand that as human beings it was their duty to save lives and also to spread awareness of blood donation.

Saffad said it was a myth that once one donated blood it led to severe physical weakness. He said donating blood reduced harmful iron stored in the blood and lowered the risk of heart attack. He said by donating blood at least once a year one could reduce risk of a heart attack by 88 per cent. He said the amount of blood donated was recovered in six hours and the fresh blood was healthier.

Drain cleaning a low key affair in Kanpur

PNS ■ KANPUR

Even after 10 days of divisional commissioner's strict orders to clean the drains on priority, the drain cleaning work in Kanpur continues to be a low key affair despite the weather department predicting pre-monsoon showers and timely monsoon.

Water-logging has been a perennial problem of Kanpur Nagar and despite the tall claims, plans on paper and massive funds allocated for drain cleaning and silt removal, the situation has remained grim for decades in the past.

To say over 80 per cent of drains are currently lying choked and will once again inundate the city by sewer and rain water will not be any exaggeration. The reason is

that Kanpur Nagar Nigam claims fund crunch and above all a huge manpower is required to accomplish this gigantic task. Every year drains are cleaned for a few days and the silt is left alongside drains which are washed back in the drains once it rains.

Kanpur Mayor Pramila Pandey has blamed fund and staff crunch for the delay in work. She has said the problem is mainly due to choked sewers and has placed the blame for it on the city milk dairies who, she says, dump cow dung into the drains leading to choked sewers.

It may be mentioned here that in the city limits, cow dung has no commercial value and the easiest way to get rid of it is to dump it into the drains. Besides, the debris lying on the

road sides is washed into the drains during rains, choking the drains.

In its budget, the Kanpur Nagar Nigam allocates funds every year for the removal of dairies in the city outside the city limits. This has continued for the past over 25 years and still not a single dairy has been removed from the city limits. The dairy owners allege that the pressure built on them is to blackmail them into depositing the desired money after which the campaign fizzles out for one full year.

Pandey said among other reasons which cause urban flooding was open sewers and massive encroachment of drains. She said solid wastes consisting mainly of plastic, cloth and paper entered the drain, choking them. She said

apart from this, the fermentable organic wastes rapidly degrade under wet conditions leaving behind a predominantly non-biodegradable complex of wastes that flowed into the sewers or remained stuck at vulnerable points along the water course. She added that due to heavy rains that lead to a large runoff, the water level in these drains rise and release all the obstructed solid waste components, especially accumulated plastics and cloth that do not undergo rapid degradation. She said this was not easy to delineate areas where floods had occurred after the event.

She said every effort was being made by the KNN with its limited manpower and money to ensure that all the drains were cleaned and silt removed out of the city limits.

Spice unit worker beaten to death by colleague

PNS ■ KANPUR

A worker of a spice grinding unit was beaten to death in the Collectorganj police station area late Sunday night. He was identified as Prahlad Patel (38).

Police have taken his colleague into custody for interrogation. Prahlad was a native of Ojha Nagar under Kamsin police station of Banda and was employed in the edible spice grinding unit of Vijay Chaurasia in Nayaganj here. He along with another worker Vijay Sahni of Sant Kabir Nagar used to live in a room on the rooftop of the unit. After finishing their duty, both used to consume liquor.

On Monday morning, when a worker went to Prahlad's room to call him, he found him dead. There were marks of injury on his head and other parts of the body.

Station House Officer Sanjiv Kant Mishra said the kin of the deceased alleged that Prahlad's colleague Vijay Sahni had killed him.

The deceased's brother, Shatrughan Patel, said it was likely that both had some dispute while consuming liquor and Vijay may have beaten Prahlad to death.

The SHO said the case would be worked out soon. NABBED: Police late Sunday night arrested the owner, driver and cleaner of the bus who were absconding after their bus collided head-on with a tempo, leaving 18 persons dead in Sachendi on June 8.

Seven others were also injured in the incident. Sachendi police said that on a tip-off, all the three accused were arrested near Bhaunti late Sunday night. They were identified as bus owner Deepak Bhargava of Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh), driver Devendra of Gwalior and cleaner Brij Bhushan of Guna (Madhya Pradesh).

Shri Guru Singh Sabha to open 10-bed dialysis ward for poor in GTB Hospital

PNS ■ KANPUR

Apart from its contribution in the field of education, Shri Guru Singh Sabha has decided to serve the interests of the poor and needy persons in the medical field. For this, it has decided to open a 10-bed dialysis ward soon at the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital to offer the dialysis facility on a no-profit no-loss basis.

Addressing media persons, president of Shri Guru Singh Sabha, Harvinder Singh Lord, said the provident fund account of all the employees of city gurdwaras would be opened.

Besides, around 200 poor families of Sikh community, including Ragi Jatha, Gyani and Sewadars will be provided medical insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh each. For extending special financial aid to other needy persons, a committee has been constituted to look into the matter.

He said a two-hour free OPD would be run at the GTB

Hospital daily for the poor and needy patients. He said film director Farhan Akhtar had donated Rs 5 lakh to Shri Guru Singh Sabha.

The other donors include Priyanshu Bhatia (five oxygen cylinders), Mukund Gupta (two oxygen concentrators), Ramesh Rajani (one oxygen cylinder), Gurmit Kaur of Canada (Rs 25,000), Sukhmit Singh of England (Rs 61,000), manager of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Committee Manjinder Singh (10 oxygen cylinder) and Shyam Gupta (two oxygen cylinders). The Shri Guru Singh Sabha has so far been delivering free oxygen cylinders to the houses of poor patients, he informed. Mohan Singh Jhas, Kulwantjeet Singh Gill, Gyani Madan Singh, Harminder Singh, Dayal Singh Gandhi, Manmeet Singh, Raju Trilochan Singh Narang, Puneet Singh Chawla and Karmjeet Singh, Surjit Singh Lord and Ravinder Singh Banti were present at the press conference.

SP dharna against petro price hike

PNS ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of Samajwadi Party leaders and members on the directive of the party high command staged a dharna at Bharat Mata Statue at Bara Chaurha on Monday to protest the frequent hikes in prices of petrol and diesel.

The SP members held posters, banners and placards and shouted slogans demanding immediate roll-back of petroleum prices and threatened to launch Hala Bol to protest the highhanded autocratic governance and apathy towards increasing inflation.

Addressing the gathering, SP city president Dr Imran said in a short span of 5 months the Narendra Modi government had hiked the petroleum prices many times, and now it had broken all the past records. He said in the 13-month period of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government had hiked the petroleum price over 25.72 per cent in sharp contrast to the crude prices.

He said on account of the massive hike in prices of petrol and diesel, there was an all-round



Hundreds of Samajwadi Party members sitting on dharna cum demonstration at Bharat Mata Statue, Bara Chaurha, to protest price hike of petrol and massive all round inflation on Monday, Pioneer

increase in prices of all commodities and the people were unable to meet their ends. He said the essential commodities were now beyond the reach of the common man and the pandemic had brought employment to a grinding halt and people were forced to starvation.

He said the prime minister's promise to provide two crore jobs every month had proved false. He

said the government sector was being sold off to the capitalists. He said the SP would intensify its agitation if the prices were not rolled back.

Prominent leaders who took part in the dharna included Abhishek Gupta, Narendra Singh, Subhash Dwivedi, Jamaluddin Junaidi, Madhu Yadav, Asif Kadri, Raju Bhatia and Zeeshan Ahmed.

Homeopathic camp organised

PNS ■ KANPUR

Rotary Club of Kanpur Vinayak Shree and Arogya Dham, Gwaltoli, jointly organised a free homeopathic medicines distribution camp at Patiraja Mahipal Inter College, Ghatampur-Khurid, Bighapur, Unnao, on Monday.

Over 2,500 families from three villages of Bighapur gram panchayat area were given free immunity booster and medicines for pulmonary fibrosis, black fungus and post-coronary complaint.

Senior homeopath of Arogya Dham, Dr Hemant Mohan, his wife, Dr Arti Mohan, who is a senior homeopathic gynecologist, Rtn Sachin Dixit, Rtn Alok Gupta, Rtn Prabhakar Bajpai, Rtn Prem Kumar Tripathi, Prashant Sharma and social worker Ankita Shukla were present at the camp.

Earlier, they were welcomed by college manager Abhay Singh and gram pradhan Nirbhay Singh.

Dr Hemant Mohan said Arogya Dham had so far cured over 30,000 novel coronavirus-infected patients with homeopathic medicines in India and abroad.

Rtn Sachin Dixit said the club's campaign of 'making villages coronavirus-free' would be continued in future also.

Dr Arti Mohan cautioned people to keep their children and elderly persons safe even after the decline in the second wave of COVID-19.

On this occasion, activists administered oaths to villagers to always use masks and sanitiser. Gram pradhans of over 30 villages were present in the camp and they felicitated the activists with appreciation letters.

One killed in road mishap

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

One person died in a road accident under Ahraura police station recently. According to a report received here, Sheru Sahni (22), a resident of Chaubeypur, Varanasi, was going on the Chunar-Aharaura Road on his motorcycle along with Ajay Sahni, a resident of Jalapur Maft under Chunar police station, when he was suddenly hit by an unidentified truck in Bhagatidevi village. As a result Sheru died on the spot and Ajay was sent to a hospital for treatment. The police took the body of the victim into custody for completing the legal formalities.

TWO RUN OVER BY TRAIN: In a tragic incident, two persons were run over by a train under Chunar police station on Sunday. According to a report Veeru (58) and Vijayee (25), residents of Dhauha village under Chunar police station, were run over by the train when they reached the culvert built at Chakara nullah

in the wee hours on Sunday. On getting information about the matter Chunar police reached the spot and took the bodies of the deceased into custody for completing the legal formalities.

STOLEN MOTORCYCLE RECOVERED: Vindhychal police arrested two persons and recovered one stolen motorcycle on Sunday. It is learnt that Rahul Agrahari, a resident of Ghamahapur under Vindhychal police station, had lodged a first information report (FIR) in connection with the theft of his motorcycle on Saturday. The police was investigating the case when it was tipped off by an informer following which they raided the spot and recovered one motorcycle from the residence of Khissu located in Ghamahapur village. The police arrested him along with another person and brought the motorcycle to the police station. After completing the necessary legal formalities the police sent the accused to the jail.

Two arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ CHANDAULI

During checking at DDU Jn, GRP police team caught two suspicious persons at the eastern end of platform no 2 along with 34 kg of silver which was recovered in the form of 30 ingots whose cost was estimated to be worth ₹24 lakh. Both the accused were taking silver consignment from Jaunpur to Kolhapur in Maharashtra and had reached DDU Jn to catch the train. During interrogation the accused, who are real brothers, were identified as Bharat Sagar and Sharad Sagar, residents of Kolhapur district in Maharashtra. DDU GRP incharge Ashok Kumar Dubey said that two accused were caught during checking.

DIES: Heerawati Devi (50) belonging to Sargujia village, who came out for a morning walk on the Lew-Iliya road under the Baburi police station on Sunday, was knocked down by a pickup as a result of which she died on the spot.

Over 32,000 persons vaccinated

PNS ■ VARANASI

Taking forward the target of vaccination as a mission, under the direction of General Manager Anjali Goyal and under the leadership of Principal Chief Medical Officer by fully utilising the Covid vaccine doses supplied by the state government more than 32,000 persons have been vaccinated so far by the medical team of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW). A large number of non-railway persons are also in it. While ensuring due compliance of the instructions specified by the Government of India during Covid infection at present and concerned about the safety and health of railway employees, their families and non-railway persons and general public the BLW, in collaboration with the district administration, has ensured the vaccination of a total of 32,304 eli-



gible beneficiaries so far. The first dose of vaccine was given to a total of 21,845 eligible people, including 9,016 beneficiaries of railways and 12,829 of non-railway while the second dose to a total of 10,459 people, including 5,987 of railways and 4,472 of non-railway. The vaccination personnel keeping in mind the problems of the persons with disabilities, elderly and weak persons, themselves go to them and vaccinate them. The GM has appreciated their kind-

heartedness, cooperation, excellent efforts and unique initiatives. Apart from this, deep cleaning, sanitisation and cleanliness is being done daily in various workshop premises, administrative building, offices along with colony premises, as well as for creating awareness about following Corona protocol, prevention of infection and vaccination messages are being displayed through posters at various places, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh Kumar said.

Employees, kin vaccinated against Covid

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Vijay Kumar Panjari, many effective steps are being taken for the prevention of coronavirus infection in Varanasi division. In this sequence under the leadership of Additional Chief Medical Superintendent (ACMS) Dr R Singh, at North Eastern Railway (NER) Divisional Hospital, Lahartara here and in various health units the Covid-19 vaccination work is being carried out by the Railway medical team and the medical team constituted by the state government. In this sequence, with the help of the district administration, a total of 210 doses of Covid vaccine were administered recently in which in the Divisional Hospital,

Varanasi, 39 employees, families of 64 employees, including 107 non-railway people were given the Covid vaccine, PRO Ashok Kumar said. Besides at



Chapra and Mau health units 105 vaccine doses administered to the frontline employees those related to rail movement and maintenance by visiting their work place. During this period

the employees and their families were also made aware to wear masks properly, wash their hands at frequent intervals and maintain physical distancing. Apart from it in Varanasi division's various rail sections, station premises, stations and trains deep cleaning, sanitisation and cleanliness is being done daily. In the main stations of the division in the station premises for awareness of the passengers and employees messages related to prevention of coronavirus infection and vaccination against it are being displayed through posters at various places. Markings have been made in stations and railway premises in order to follow social distancing. Corona protocol is being ensured in station premises and trains and strict action is being taken against the violators.

Roy likely to be TMC VP with eye on -E

TMC expects Mukul to break Tripura too
SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With apparent plans to use Mukul Roy to hit the BJP where it should hurt it the most, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee is likely to appoint him as the Trinamool national vice president and use him in the north-eastern States where the saffron outfit is in power and where Roy has a good following.

Roy was the national vice president of the BJP when he left it to join the TMC last Friday — about four years after he left the party that he co-founded with the Bengal Chief Minister in 1998.

Though no TMC leader would speak on the issue publicly sources said that Trinamool national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has communicated to Roy the plans of the Chief Minister.

Roy who has a good number of loyalists among the Tripura BJP

MLAs could be entrusted with "Mission Tripura and North East", sources said adding at least 12-13 MLAs in the tiny north-eastern state could join the Trinamool at an appropriate time.

Foremost of these Roy loyalists is senior BJP Legislator Sudip Roy Burman who once left the Congress — the main and only opposition party in Tripura — to join the Trinamool Congress and later joined the BJP with the entire chunk of the TMC brass ahead of the State elections in the north-eastern State.

A known Roy loyalist Roy Burman had been in a funk for not being made the Tripura Chief Minister — the post went to Biplab Deb. Roy could now be entrusted with gauging the mood of the disgruntled saffron MLAs including Roy Burman — who leads the anti-Biplab Deb camp. The former Railway Minister could also be joined in his "mission" by senior Congress leader in that State PM Deb Burman a member of the Tripura Royal family, sources said.

"Mukul Da has been the TMC national general secretary and had seen the organizational work in various states including Tripura and Assam... it is true that he has good followers in those States... now he may try to revive those contacts after becoming the national vice president of the party," a senior Trinamool leader said adding "if the BJP could not understand the worth of Mukul Da then that is not our fault... Mamata Banerjee knows full well where to use which leader and how."

Meanwhile, Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Monday demanded immediate steps to be taken against the defecting leaders saying if adequate steps were not taken then the BJP would move the court.

"We give a day's time to Mukul Roy to tender his resignation (as a BJP MLA) and if that is not done then we will appeal to the Speaker who is quite a senior and knowledgeable person... and even then if he continues on

the post then I know what is to be done... we will get things done by the judiciary." Roy won the State election from Krishnagar North Assembly seat.

Elsewhere there was considerable churning in the Trinamool Congress regarding the home-coming of leaders who had left the party before the elections.

Already rallies were being taken out against any possible decision to take in leaders like former Minister Rajib Banerjee who left the TMC just before the elections. Banerjee who met senior TMC leaders Partho Chatterjee and Kunal Ghosh would however not make any comments.

A senior TMC leader and MP said, "the case of Mukul Roy is different because he is worth taking back maybe along with his loyalists because of his contacts but others are just parasites... besides it would be wrong to take these leaders back who have been defeated in their own areas... the workers who worked continuously would be disheartened."

24 MLAs absent from BJP delegation to Gov

PNS ■ KOLKATA

As many as 24 MLAs were absent from the delegation that Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari, led on Monday to meet Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Only 50 MLAs out of a total of 74 accompanied Adhikari who submitted a memorandum regarding the post-poll violence in the State that he claimed to have "degenerated into a communal violence." The news assumes importance in the backdrop of a number of BJP leaders expressing willingness to return to the TMC.

In the Assembly elections the BJP had won 77 seats out of whom two party MPs resigned to retain the older posts and Mukul Roy left the party on Friday.

On why only 50 out of 74 BJP members accompanied him to the Raj Bhavan the Opposition Leader who had himself defected to the BJP from the TMC just before the elections said "most of them are from outside and could not come to Kolkata because of the pandemic situation."

This, amid reports that the BJP's Kalliganj MLA had gone of a party WhatsApp group though the Legislator said that some family member had mistakenly got his name deleted from the group. Among those who skipped the meeting despite living nearer to Kolkata was Biswajit Das, an MLA from Bagdah in North 24 Parganas. He had earlier expressed interest in reverse defection to TMC, sources said. Apart from him MLAs from Falakata MLA Dipak Barman and Alipurduar Suman Kanjilal did not attend the meeting.

Incidentally these MLAs and a couple of MPs enjoy good chemistry with Mukul Roy the BJP former vice president who on Friday left the party to join the Trinamool Congress. Already a number of BJP leaders who had left the Bengal ruling outfit have expressed their desire to join the old party back. About a dozen MLAs and some influential leaders like Babu Master in North 24 Parganas are willing to return to the TMC, Kashem Ali, a close associate of Roy, was quoted as saying.

Cut to Raj Bhavan. Emerging from his meeting with the Governor Adhikari attacked the Mamata Banerjee Government for failing to contain the post-poll communal violence in the State

Stop communal violence: Suwendu to Bengal Govt

and said if things were not brought under control then the BJP would start agitation in a big way. Adhikari who met Governor with a range of issues including post-poll violence and defections, said, "The post-poll political violence has taken the shape of communal disturbance in the State... we have not forgotten Dhulagarh, Basirhat, Baduria... and now similar incidents are taking place at Chandannagar (in Hooghly) and at Tiljala in the very heart of Kolkata... everyone has seen what had taken place."

Complaining that in the name of "containing the situation the police have arrested the victims... I must tell this Government that secularism does not mean attacking the Sanatanis..." he said adding how the women and children were being targeted in various places of Bengal and the police are sitting idle.

Complaining that the "SPs and other officers were not taking phone calls of the opposition MLAs," he said "even the Left Government was far better than this... then the police acted more judiciously... and here they are working at the behest of the Bhaipo (Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew)."

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No.-01-Elect/G/PRYJ/21-22 Tender Notice Dated: 10.06.2021

Senior Divl. Electrical Engineer/Gen.N.C.Riy/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following e-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 15.00 hrs. on 09.07.2021. The details of the tenders are as under:

S.N.	TN	Name of work	Cost of work	Duration of Completion
1	ELG-01-2122	Part (A): Electrical work in connection with Provision of 25000 gallons capacity RCC overhead tank along with deep tube well, pump house & associated pipeline at Harduaganj colony. Part (B): Electrical work in connection with "Naini PRYJ: Provision of one type-IV quarters at NYN". Part (C): Electrical work for "Supply, installation & commissioning of Automatic Axle/Bearing temperature measurement & recording system at rolling in point in Up & Dn line at ALD & CNB yard".	₹ 24,70,138.00	06 Months

Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above e-tenders are available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of e-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website alongwith Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under ITAct-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letterhead if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. 4. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 5. In case of any difficulty/helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 6. The Contractors should submit valid Class 'A' Electrical License issued by State Government otherwise tender shall not be considered. 7. Rate Quoted by Firm will be inclusive of all Taxes & Duties. 8. Suppliers of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. 67421 (R)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRO NCR

DHFL

National Office: DHFL Towers, B-Wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051.
Branch Office: Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited Dhiraj Bag, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
[LC No. 00008102 of Lucknow Branch] Jagjit Enterprises Private Limited (Borrower) Harmeet Mann (Co Borrower 1) Harpreet Mann (Co Borrower 2) Satwinder Kaur Mann (Guarantor 1)	06-05-2021/ ₹ 5,38,44,289/- (Five Crore Thirty Eight lakh Forty Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Nine) NPA (09-01-2021)	Plot On Part Of Kharsa No 394 Sa/3 Village Dhawan, Deva Road Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226001
[LC No. 00002917 of Varanasi Branch] D P Medicare Clinical Laboratories Private Limited (Borrower) Saurabh Chakrabarty (Co Borrower 1) Shweta Chakrabarty (Co Borrower 2) Dev Prasad Chakrabarty (Guarantor 1) Reeta Chakrabarty (Guarantor 2)	06-05-2021/ ₹ 4,32,60,532/- (Four Crore Thirty Two lakh Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Two) NPA (10-04-2020)	36/38-33/2 & B-36/38-33/4 Kabir Nagar Colony, Mauza Kabir Nagar, Flat No Hlg 33/28/33/4 Pargana Dehat Amanat, Varanasi Varanasi Uttar Pradesh:- 221005
[LC No. 00014566 of Gurgaon Branch] Sardar Patel Institute Of Management Society (Borrower) Anurag Pandey (Co Borrower 1) Sneha Pandey (Co Borrower 2) Krishna Mohan Pandey (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 3,82,34,318/- (Three Crore Eighty Two lakh Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No. 25, 27, 28 Knowledge Park Phase 1, Greer Noida Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201301
[LC No. 00004437 of New Delhi Branch] Sangeeta Arora (Borrower) Chikhen Ina (Co Borrower 1) Aman Arora (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 37,937,556/- (Three Crore Seventy Nine lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Six) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No G 5 Block G Sector 39 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201301
[LC No. 00002291 of Lucknow Branch] Lucknow Colonies Private Limited (Borrower) Mukesh Singh (Co Borrower 1) Rinkeet Singh (Co Borrower 2) Vishnu Pal Singh (Guarantor 1) Munni Devi (Guarantor 2)	06-05-2021/ ₹ 3,11,26,834/- (Three Crore Eleven lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four) NPA (10-04-2020)	House No C- 86 Sainik Nagar Cooperative Housing Society Sainik Colony Sarojani Nagar Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226001
[LC No. 00013988 of Noida Branch] Pradipt Kalra (Borrower) Sunil Kalra (Co Borrower 1) Vandana Kalra (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 1,76,20,082/- (Two Crore Seventy Six lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Two) NPA (11-03-2021)	House No. B-174 Block -B Sector- 44 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201301
[LC No. 00000071 of Agra Branch] Sharif Singh (Borrower) Tasleem Begum (Co Borrower 1) Muzahid Anis (Co Borrower 2) Walk Free Shoes (Guarantor 1) Sajid Anis (Guarantor 2)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 2,59,07,898/- (Two Crore Fifty Nine lakh Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight) NPA (09-01-2021)	Plot No. G-3, Sector D, Group Housing, Taj Nagri Phase 2 Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh:- 282001
[LC No. 00002297 of Agra Branch] Mas Plambara Devi Resorts Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Gaurhan (Co Borrower 1) Pooja Kumar (Co Borrower 2) Rakesh Kumar Gupta (Guarantor 1) Pooja Gupta (Guarantor 2) Geeta Gupta (Guarantor 3)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 2,11,63,101/- (Two Crore Eleven lakh Three Thousand One Hundred One) NPA (10-12-2020)	Hotel On Amal Of Plot No. 51 & 52 Kh. No. 131 Noida Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 201301
[LC No. 00004843 of Lucknow Branch] Sunil Kumar Pal (Borrower) Roil Pal (Co Borrower 1)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 1,74,65,914/- (One Crore Seventy Four lakh Sixty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Four) NPA (09-02-2021)	Flat No A- 6, 6th Floor Shalimar Complex Dehradun Road Saharanpur Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh:- 226001
[LC No. 00001366 of Meerut Branch] Tinupati Trading Co (Borrower) Nishant Kumar Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Lokesh Kumar (Co Borrower 2) Prashant Sharma (Guarantor 1) Brij Kishor Sharma (Guarantor 2) Nishant Sharma (Guarantor 3)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 1,68,80,051/- (One Crore Sixty Eight lakh Eighty Thousand Fifty One) NPA (09-01-2021)	Please Refer Remarks Please Refer Remarks Please Refer Remarks Meerut Meerut Uttar Pradesh:- 250001
[LC No. 00008307 of Lucknow Branch] Hotel Pal Awarth (Borrower) Sunil Kumar Pal (Co Borrower 1) Roil Pal (Co Borrower 2)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 1,40,43,347/- (One Crore Forty Three lakh Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty Seven) NPA (09-02-2021)	Hotel Pal Awarth 215/409, Naka Noida Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226001
[LC No. 00007450 of Dehradun Branch] Bajaj Packers (Borrower) Suresh Kumar Bajaj (Co Borrower 1) Lisha Bajaj (Co Borrower 2) Sameer Bajaj (Guarantor 1)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 1,33,70,305/- (One Crore Thirty Three lakh Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No. 3, 6 & 5, Kh. No. 10 Near Radha S Shwami Satsang Bhawan Indira Complex Dehradun Road Saharanpur Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh:- 247001
[LC No. 00003026 of Lucknow Branch] Ishan Infra City Private Limited (Borrower) Arun Kumar Singh (Co Borrower 1) Roil Singh (Co Borrower 2)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 1,25,56,621/- (One Crore Twenty Five lakh Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty One) NPA (10-12-2020)	House At Plot No. 45 Pragati Vihar Road Joyina Ward Bharatnagar Haridwarharidwar Uttar Pradesh:- 226001
[LC No. 00002292 of Lucknow Branch] Lucknow Colonies Private Limited (Borrower) Mukesh Singh (Co Borrower 1) Rinkeet Singh (Co Borrower 2) Vishnu Pal Singh (Guarantor 1) Munni Devi (Guarantor 2)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 1,24,55,023/- (One Crore Twenty Four lakh Fifty Five Thousand Twenty Three) NPA (10-04-2020)	Half Part Of Land Kharsa No. 14 Mohalla Lonha Ward Bijnaur Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226001
[LC No. 00000223 of Jaipur Nagar Branch] Sushil Kumar (Borrower) Puniti Katsiya (Co Borrower 1) Dilawar Singh Baisoya (Co Borrower 2) Bisambari Devi (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 1,11,21,881/- (One Crore One lakh Twenty One Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty One) NPA (10-12-2020)	House No. A 33 Ground Floor Block A South Extra Zone 1 Delhi New Delhi Delhi:- 110017
[LC No. 00001378 of Agra Branch] Satish Oberoi (Borrower) Reeta Oberoi (Co Borrower 1) Rajeev Oberoi (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 1,06,92,253/- (One Crore Six lakh Ninety Two Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five) NPA (10-03-2020)	House No. 09 MPL No. 39/61 One High School Colony Near Police Choki Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh:- 282001
[LC No. 00004484 of Dehradun Branch] Ajay Kumar Singh (Borrower) Rajveer Singh (Co Borrower 1)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 1,05,77,290/- (One Crore Five lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Two Hundred Ninety) NPA (09-01-2021)	Eminent Heights, T-2/204, 11 Balbir Road Second Floor Road Dehradun Dehradun Uttaranchal:- 248001
[LC No. 00002900 of Noida Branch] Sawhney Export House Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Arvinder Singh Sawhney (Co Borrower 1) Simar Singh Sawhney (Co Borrower 2) Sawhney Fashions (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 1,04,20,856/- (One Crore Four lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Six) NPA (09-01-2021)	Industrial Plot No. 21, Block-A Sector-6 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201301
[LC No. 00000689 of Greater Noida Branch] Sandeep Chauhan (Borrower) Subay Singh (Co Borrower 1) Pramila Chauhan (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 97,18,676/- (Ninety Seven lakh Eighteen thousand Six Hundred Seventy Six) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No. 62 Village Surajpur, Village Malakpur G Noida G Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh:- 201308
[LC No. 00005846 of Lucknow Branch] Sunil Kumar Pal (Borrower) Roil Pal (Co Borrower 1)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 97,15,516/- (Ninety Seven lakh Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen) NPA (09-02-2021)	Plot No. B-2/147 Vishvas Khand Gonti Nagar Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226010
[LC No. 00007728 of Raj Nagar Branch] Ombir Singh (Borrower) Anita Bhatti (Co Borrower 1)	29-04-2021/ ₹ 96,54,269/- (Ninety Six lakh Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Nine) NPA (09-01-2021)	H. No. A-2/115 Virat Khand, Ward Rajendra Nagar Ghaziabad Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh:- 226010
[LC No. 00001524 of Meerut Branch] Niaz Ahmed (Borrower) Riz Ahmed (Co Borrower 1) Mohd Samad Niaz (Co Borrower 2) Jai Bunisha (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 69,78,674/- (Sixty Nine lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Four) NPA (11-05-2020)	Southern 1/1 Part Of Zone No.12 (Old) New No.31 Mohalla Azad Road, Hapur Meerut Meerut Uttar Pradesh:- 250001
[LC No. 00003987 of New Delhi Branch] Shashwat Garg (Borrower) Praveen Garg (Co Borrower 1) Anjali Garg (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ ₹ 68,26,160/- (Sixty Eight lakh Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty Six) NPA (09-02-2021)	Plot No. K-g, 108 First Floor, Kavi Nagar, Gzb Gzb Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:- 201001

Kerala forest official blames politicians for deforestation

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A massive deforestation drive, hitherto unseen in the State, has denuded Kerala of its already fragile green cover. A senior Forest Department official told *The Pioneer* that the felling of trees from the reserve forests and its peripheries was in violation of the Articles in Indian Constitution dealing with the preservation of environment and forests.

"Kerala had 35 per cent forest cover till the early 1970s. But widespread deforestation during the reign of C Achutha Menon and K Karunakaran as chief Ministers saw deforestation of the reserve forests in the State. The then Forest Minister K G Adiyodi, a Congress leader had to quit following the Kerala High Court's observation that the slaughtering of invaluable and exotic trees took place with official connivance," said the officer designated as Conservator of Forests. He did not want his

name to be quoted for obvious reasons.

He said the massive felling of trees in Wynad, Idukki and Pathanamthitta districts were more severe than what was witnessed during the 1970s. "The forest cover over the State was just 11 per cent but that too is a fudged figure because the remote sensing satellite images rate the rubber plantations too as forest cover," said the Conservator of Forests, a widely respected environmentalist.

Kummanam Rajasekharan, environmental activist and former Governor of Mizoram, who personally inspected the forest sites from where the rare trees get cut down described it as poaching of forests perpetrated by the Kerala Government. "This is destruction of forests of the worst kind. Ministers, bureaucrats and brigades are behind this scale of tree felling," said Rajasekharan.

A K Saseendran, the new Forest Minister, who last week



had washed his hands off the slaughtering of trees made a volte face on Monday and stated that the decision to fell the trees was taken observing all departmental formalities. "We had held discussions with the revenue department before the order to cut down the trees was issued. There is no misunderstanding between ministers or officers on this issue," Saseendran told reporters at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. He also said that the

decision to transfer certain forest officials was taken by the Department of Forest. Saseendran, who had expressed reservation in accepting the Forest portfolio, had said last week that the officers were shunted out by the Revenue Department and he had no role in it.

The seriousness of the felling of trees in the State was brought to light when a tribal settler disclosed that he was paid ₹80,000/- to cut down a tree

Bengal announces partial relaxation in curbs

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government on Monday announced extended the "partial lock-down" allowing only partial opening of hotels, restaurants, malls, parks and markets for another two weeks.

The local trains, buses and metro services would not start at

least till June 30, State Chief Secretary HK Diwedi said.

The decision came following a steady decline in daily counts of active corona cases which had crossed 20,000 mark in mid-May but came down to 3,984 cases on Sunday. The active case count in the state is now 17,651. The positivity rate, which had gone up to 32 per cent during the election period had come down to around 5 per cent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said adding about 2 crore had received their vaccine shots.

Though the transport would remain shut the Government allowed opening of factories etc with 50 per cent staff strength provided the attending members had their vaccines. Bars and restaurants would also function with 50 per cent visitors. Malls would allow only 30 per cent footfall.

The private offices would be allowed to work with 25 per cent staff strength the Chief Secretary said adding they would have to arrange for their own transport. The Government offices would function from Wednesday at 25 per cent staff capacity with



authorities arranging transport of the staff.

The movement of private vehicles, taxis and auto-rickshaws, too, would be only allowed in a limited manner. They would be allowed to go to hospitals and airports only. Parks would open from 6 am to 9 am for morning walkers who had got two shots of vaccine while retail shops and markets would remain open between 7 am and 11 am. The other shops would open after that but till 6 pm.

While gyms, beauty parlours and spas will remain shut, a maximum of 50 guests would be allowed at wedding ceremonies. Banks would open as usual between 10 am and 2 pm. Schools and colleges would remain shut.

Blood camp for kids with Thalassemia

PNS ■ PATNA

To boost the availability of blood for Thalassemia-affected children, the IAS Officers Association, Bihar, organised a blood donation camp on Monday on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day in Patna. The event was supported by State Health Society, Department of Health, Government of Bihar and was inaugurated by Tripurari Sharan, Chief Secretary, Bihar, as the chief guest. Aamir Subhani, Development Commissioner, Bihar, was the distinguished guest, while G S Kang, Vice-chairman, Bihar State Planning Board presided over the event. The chief secretary, while inaugurating the camp,

assured that the State Government is committed to augmenting appropriate facilities for blood transfusion in Bihar so that the children do not have to travel long distances. The officers interacted with the three thalassemia affected children of Bihar receiving specialised treatments at CMC hospital, Vellore. Their treatment is being provided under direct guidance of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, as per the Press statement. Dipak Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, DEFC, Bihar said that "this is the first such big event of blood donation" after the onset of covid, through which our aim is to support the children who are affected by thalassemia in Bihar.

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Concern over Delta variant mutating to Delta Plus



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delta variant (B.1.617.2) of SARS-CoV-2 has mutated further. Identified as "Delta plus" or "AY.1" variant, it is said to be resistant to the monoclonal antibody cocktail treatment for Covid-19 recently authorised in India. According to reports, Delta plus has been found to be present in six genomes from India as of June 7.

Health experts have said that there is no immediate cause for concern in India as its incidence here is still low and two doses of vaccines, putting up masks and implementing Covid appropriate norms can help check its infection.

However, given the snail's pace of vaccination drive owing to job shortage and poor implementation of social norms for Covid-19, the authorities may find it difficult to combat its spread in the coming days.

"One of the emerging variants is B.1.617.2.1 also known as AY.1 characterized by the acquisition of K417N mutation," Vinod Scaria, clinician

and scientist at Delhi's CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), tweeted on Sunday. The mutation, he pointed out, is in the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, which helps the virus enter and infect the human cells.

At least 63 genomes of Delta (B.1.617.2) with the new K417N mutation have been identified so far on the global science initiative GISAID, according to Public Health England report. In its latest report on coronavirus variants, updated till last Friday, the health agency said Delta plus was present in six genomes from India as of June 7.

"The variant frequency for K417N is not much in India at this point in time. The sequences are mostly from Europe, Asia and America," Scaria tweeted. The earliest sequence of this genome was found in Europe in late March this year.

Stating that the travel histories for the variant were yet not readily available to make assumptions, "evidence suggests that it is resistance to monoclonal antibodies

Officers at level of Under Secretary or above directed to attend offices on all working days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday directed all officers at the level of Under Secretary and above to attend offices on all working days, beginning Wednesday, except for persons with disabilities and pregnant women employees who would continue to work from home. For the first time, the government has also issued instructions for staggered timings to be maintained.

As for the government servants of the level below Under Secretaries, 50 per cent of such officials will attend office on all working days and the remaining will work from home, as per an order by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The Personnel Ministry has come up with guidelines to regulate attendance in government offices "in view of the fact that

number of Covid cases and positivity rate have reduced considerably".

For the first, the officers/staff shall follow staggered timings — 9 AM to 5.30 PM, 9.30 AM to 6 PM and 10 AM to 6.30 PM — to avoid overcrowding in offices.

"All government servants at the level of Under Secretary and above to attend office on all working days. All officers/staff have to ensure strict compliance with COVID-appropriate behaviour viz. Frequent washing of hands/sanitisation, wearing a mask/face cover, observing social distancing at all times and "any laxity in this regard shall be viewed seriously", the order said.

The persons with disabilities and pregnant women employees will continue to be exempted from attending office but are required to work

from home till further orders, the order said. All officers/staff residing in the containment zone shall be exempted from coming to offices till the containment zone is denotified, according to the order.

Those officers/staff who are not attending office shall work from home and they should be available on telephone and other electronic means of communication at all times, the order said. "Meeting, as far as possible shall be conducted on video-conferencing and personal meetings with visitors, unless absolutely necessary in public interest, are to be avoided," it said.

These instructions shall come into force from June 16 until June 30, the order said, adding that biometric attendance shall continue to be suspended and physical attendance registers to be maintained until further orders.

Casirivimab and Imdevimab".

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off viruses. Of late, some monoclonal antibodies have been specifically designed to target the spike protein of the Covid virus -- they do not let the virus attach itself and enter into the human

cells.

Casirivimab and Imdevimab are monoclonal antibodies that are specifically directed against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, and designed to block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells, according to reports.

Scaria also suggested the

mutation may be associated with the ability to escape the immune response against the virus. "There is no cause of concern due to the new variant in India as of now," added Anurag Agrawal, the director of CSIR-IGIB said.

He said that the blood plasma from many fully vaccinated individuals will have to

Novavax says its jab effective up to 90%, protects against variant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the growing demand for more jabs around the world, vaccine maker Novavax said on Monday its shot NVX-CoV2373 was highly effective, to be precise 90 per cent, against Covid-19 and also protected against variants as has been shown in a large, late-stage study in the US and Mexico.

The Novavax's protein-based Covid-19 vaccine, which is easy to store and transport, is expected to play an important role in boosting vaccine supplies in the developing world like India where vaccination drive is moving at a snail's pace due to shortage of jabs. However, the jab will not be readily available. The company said it intended to apply for regulatory approval by the third quarter of 2021.

The jab "demonstrated 100 per cent protection against moderate and severe disease, 90.4 per cent effica-



cy overall," the company said in a statement, adding "the study enrolled 29,960 participants across 119 sites in the U.S. and Mexico to evaluate efficacy, safety and immunogenicity."

After that, it said, it would be on course to make 100 million doses per month by the end of the third quarter and 150 million doses per month by the end of the year.

"Today, Novavax is one step closer to addressing the

critical and persistent global public health need for additional COVID-19 vaccines," said Stanley C. Erck, Novavax's president and chief executive in a statement here.

Unlike some rival jabs, Novavax's vaccine -- formerly known as NVX-CoV2373 -- does not have to be stored at ultra-low temperatures.

The company said it was "stored and stable at 2°- 8°C, allowing the use of existing vaccine supply chain channels for its distribution."

be tested against this variant to determine whether it shows any significant immune escape.

Agrawal further said SARS-CoV-2 has a nearly constant rate of acquiring genetic

variants, and each variant has acquired additional variants in a stepwise fashion.

"Understanding this continued evolution is of great importance in mapping the

evolutionary landscape of emerging variants. Largely the virus has tried to optimise for transmission and immune escape by step-wise acquisition of new mutations," he added.

ASI monuments to open tomorrow



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All Central monuments and museums, protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and which had been closed down owing to the coronavirus pandemic, will reopen from June 16.

After the surge in cases of Covid-19, the tourism ministry had decided to close down all the central monuments and museums. During April-May 2021, the number of deaths due to Covid-19 in the country saw a sudden spike.

"Today the Union Tourism Ministry has given approval to duly open all the ASI monuments from June 16, 2021. Tourists can visit the monuments following necessary Covid-19 protocols. Best wishes to everyone," Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel tweeted.

The ASI had earlier ordered closure of all centrally protected monuments from April 16 to May 15. The ASI had again issued an order on May 12 to keep all such historical sites closed till June 15.

Covid-19 cases have been continuously declining in the country.

During the last 24 hours, 70,421 new cases were reported, which is the lowest since March 31. There were 3,921 deaths due to the infection in the same time period.

Delhi HC cancels bail of Shivinder Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday cancelled bail given to former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh in a case of misappropriating funds of Religare Finvest Ltd, saying his detention was necessary to unearth the "conspiracy hatched by him" and trace the siphoned off money.

The decision by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait came on the plea of RFL challenging the March 3 order of the trial court granting bail to Shivinder in the case registered against him by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) for cheating, criminal conspiracy and criminal breach of trust.

The RFL complained to EOW against Shivinder and partners for siphoning ₹2397 crore.

"The grant of bail in a case involving cheating, criminal breach of interest by an agent of such a large magnitude of money.

Raj: Rape accused, out on bail, arrested for killing victim

Jodhpur: A man, out on bail in a rape case, was arrested on Monday in Rajasthan's Sirohi district for allegedly stabbing to death the woman he had raped last year, police said. The accused had been pressuring the woman for withdrawal of the complaint against him since he was out on bail and stabbed her to death on Saturday night at her house in Nagani village in Sirohi district, ADG (Crime) Ravi Prakash Meharda said.

Ex-Telangana Min, supporters join BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP continued with its fresh recruitments of political leaders as former Telangana Health Minister and six-time MLA Etela Rajender, who was last month dropped by Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu over an alleged land grab scam, joined the BJP here on Monday with several of his colleagues.

Rajender, a backward class leader, joined the BJP along with six of his colleagues at the party's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg headquarters, in the presence of Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, G Kishan Reddy, and party general secretaries Dushyant Gautam and Tarun Chugh.

The BJP, which had last year successfully contested the Hyderabad Municipal polls promising to rename Hyderabad to 'Bhagyanagar', aims to make rapid political inroads in the Southern state. In a high-profile campaign, the BJP stole the show by winning 46 seats and pipping AIMIM to the second place with the TRS still emerging as the largest party.

Pradhan said that the BJP will form the Government in Telangana after the next Assembly election

Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan said that the BJP will form the government in Telangana after the next assembly election. He said Telangana would be the second state in the South after Karnataka where the BJP will hold fort.

While Pradhan described Rajender as a six-time MLA, Chugh said he was a founder member of the TRS. The former TRS leader described the charges against him as baseless saying he was not given an opportunity to explain and that the allegations were based on 'anonymous complaints'.

Last week, the BJP inducted senior Congress leader and former union minister Jitin Prasada into the party.

Cong urges LS Speaker to elect Dy Speaker

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Monday wrote to Speaker Om Birla urging him to take necessary steps for election of Deputy Speaker of the House in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. In his letter to the Speaker, Chowdhury said two years have passed since the 17th Lok Sabha was constituted and the House does not have a Deputy Speaker.

Chowdhury said that the Office of Deputy Speaker continuing to remain vacant "is not in consonance with what has been envisaged under the Constitution as also well-established conventions". "As the second-highest-ranking legislative officer of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Speaker is of help in ensuring that the varied functions of the Parliament are discharged effectively, and the business of the House is conducted in a manner befitting the needs of our representative democracy," he said.

Chowdhury said it is a "very well-established convention" that the position of



Deputy Speaker "is offered to the opposition party". "Going by the constitutional provisions and well-established tradition and conventions, I would request you to ensure that necessary steps are taken for electing the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha in the ensuing monsoon session of Parliament," he said.

The Congress leader said "abiding by the tradition" of ensuring that the post goes to the opposition, "we will be upholding the established tenets of our parliamentary democracy". "I look forward to your initiative in this regard," the letter said. The Congress leader said that he had in the past too urged the Speaker to

complete the process of electing Deputy Speaker.

Last month Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, in his capacity as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), had written to Lok Sabha Speaker urging him to permit the PAC to meet and discuss the government's Covid-19 vaccination policy. "There have been numerous occasions in the past where, with permission or direction of the Speaker, the Public Accounts Committee has met and taken up matters of larger concern for discussion, deliberation and making observations and recommendations thereon to the Government to act upon," he mentioned.

Jaishankar likely to attend G20 FM meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar is likely to travel to Matera in Italy to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' (FM) meet on June 29. Italy presently holds the rotational presidency of G20. It will also hold the leaders' summit in Rome on October 30 and 31.

The G20 Foreign Ministers' physical meeting is set to take place after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that Group of Seven (G7) nations and guest countries "had a detailed discussion on the need for reforming global health governance. India has been actively engaged with international communities at the level of G20, G7 and World Health Assembly on various aspects related to dealing with the current pandemic."

Now that the G7 leaders' summit ended on June 13, the next major event for G20 will take place in the month end.

Last year, the G20, under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia, held its meetings including the leaders' meet, virtually amid the Covid pandemic.

Monsoon two weeks ahead of its schedule

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The monsoon has covered nearly two-thirds of the country and that too, nearly two weeks ahead of the normal schedule.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), after advancing into most parts of the country, including many parts of north-west India, monsoon's progress is likely to slow down. Monsoon has so far advanced into entire peninsular India; east central; east and northeast India and some parts of north-west India.

The IMD has issued orange alert for Idukki, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargod districts for Monday and yellow alert for Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alapuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Wayanad districts.

The IMD said the monsoon progressed very quickly over most parts of the country in the span of only 10 days, mainly due to active monsoon circulation and the formation of a low pressure area over Bay of Bengal.

"Conditions are favourable for further advance of the Southwest Monsoon in most parts of Madhya Pradesh, remaining parts of east Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, west Uttar



Pradesh and Haryana...," the IMD said. The four-month long rainy season is crucial for the farmers in the country and it also replenishes the water bodies.

"However due to approaching mid-latitude westerlies winds further progress of monsoon over remaining parts of northwest India is likely to be slow. The progress of the monsoon is being monitored continuously and further update will be provided on a daily basis," IMD said on Monday.

The northern limit of monsoon (NLM) is passing through

Diu, Surat, Nandurbar, Bhopal, Nowgong, Hamirpur, Barabanki, Bareilly, Saharanpur, Ambala and Amritsar. The latest satellite image indicates very dense clouds over the west coast from south of Raigad to Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. Heavy rainfall is likely in southern Konkan and Goa in the next two days.

The low pressure system, prevailing over north Odisha and West Bengal, is set to intensify within the next two to three days. This will help the monsoon to progress.

There is a trough running between south Punjab till northwest Bay of Bengal, with the eastern end lying close to the low pressure system.

These two systems, along with strong westerly winds coming in from the Arabian Sea, will bring heavy to very heavy spells of rainfall over Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Vidarbha in Maharashtra during till Thursday.

Widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls, thunderstorm & lightning very likely over Konkan, Goa, Karnataka and Mahe during next 4 days.

Delhi HC refuses stay, warns IMA prez against misusing doctors' body

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to stay an order of a trial court directing IMA president JA Jayal not to use the organisation's platform to propagate any religion and cautioning him that loose comments cannot be expected from a person chairing the responsible post. Justice Asha Menon said the court will not pass any ex-parte order as nobody appeared on behalf of the person on whose complaint the trial court had passed the order on June 4.

The high court issued notice on the appeal filed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) chief challenging the trial court's order and listed the matter for further hearing on June 16. It said the high court will have to look into the order passed by the trial court and cannot take a superficial view.

The trial court had passed the order on a plea filed against Jayal for allegedly starting a defamatory campaign against the Hindu religion "by way of promoting Christianity, in the

garb of proving superiority of Allopathic medicines over Ayurveda in treatment of COVID-19 patients". Complainant Rohit Jha had alleged before the trial court that Jayal was misusing his position and misleading the nation and its citizens in order to convert Hindus to Christianity.

The trial court had said no injunction is required based on the assurance given by Jayal that he will not indulge in such kind of activity and had noted that the plea seemed to be an offshoot of a verbal duel with respect to Allopathy vs Ayurveda.

Challenging the trial court's, advocate Tanmaya Mehta, representing Jayal, claimed that the IMA chief never gave such an assurance to the trial court since he has not done anything wrong.

He sought to stay the observations made against Jayal in the trial court's order saying they were affecting his reputation as he was heading a body which has 3.5 lakh doctors as its members. He contended that there was no television debate between Jayal and Yoga guru Ramdev.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Caution ahead

Considering the third wave, would it be more prudent to slow down the lockdown lifting process?

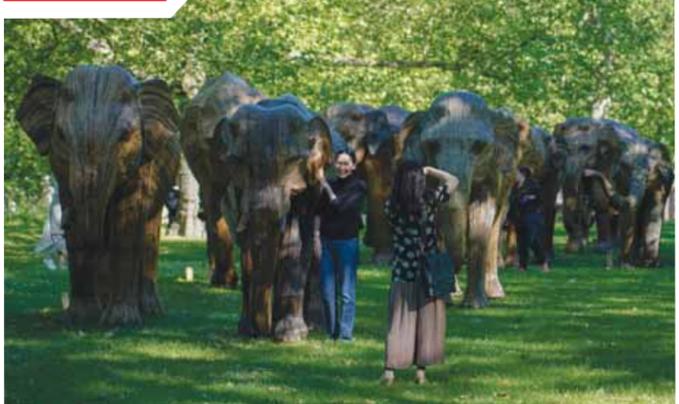
India is opening up gradually. The States have set their schedules and pace for lifting the lockdown. There is a general sigh of relief that the second wave of COVID-19 has nearly abated. Most States are bound to lift the lockdown completely by the third week of June. Call it a coincidence, but that is around the same time the UK Government originally proposed to remove all legal limits of social contact. However, it has since decided to delay the process by a few weeks in view of infections from the Delta variant of Coronavirus, the B.1.617.2 Variant of Concern (VoC) first identified in India, again rising in the country. The VoC designation — assigned by the WHO — means the variant may be more transmissible or cause severe disease, not succumb to medical treatment or evade immune response. The British Health Secretary has said that over 90 per cent of the new cases comprise this variant which is 40 per cent more transmissible. The United States says Delta has a “wild type” transmission and is beginning to get worried about its presence in the country. The Delta variant is also the one that kick-started the second wave in India, which was at its worst in April and May when life became an agony for millions of infected people. India entered May reporting nearly 400,000 cases, coupled with scarcity of medicine, oxygen and beds and even spaces in crematoria.



However, now that the wave has nearly dissipated, India is beginning to open up. Is it the right decision to have a goal of eventually lifting all restrictions when faced with four questionable situations? One is the re-think within the UK Government itself on lifting the lockdown because of the same Delta variant. Two, everybody in India, including scientists and doctors, have predicted a third wave three or four months from now. Three, the Delta variant the UK and US talk about originated in India and there is no evidence that it has died out. In fact, reports from the UK suggest that it has mutated into a more virulent version called AY.1 or Delta+. Four, while India followed the UK when it came to increasing the gap between vaccine jabs to three months, it is deciding not to when it comes to moving towards lifting the lockdown. Considering India's terrible experience with the second wave, would it not be prudent to slow down the lockdown lifting process? The States have the option of reducing the pace of opening up to ensure in the meantime that the vaccination process finally gets streamlined, that vaccine unavailability and hesitancy both stand resolved and that virologists and the National Task Force obtain proof that the vaccines are effective in reducing hospitalisation and deaths. Importantly, it needs to be ascertained that the current rate of infection does not suffer a spike after the easing of restrictions because of sudden, inevitable laxity in following COVID-19 protocols in public places.

decision to have a goal of eventually lifting all restrictions when faced with four questionable situations? One is the re-think within the UK Government itself on lifting the lockdown because of the same Delta variant. Two, everybody in India, including scientists and doctors, have predicted a third wave three or four months from now. Three, the Delta variant the UK and US talk about originated in India and there is no evidence that it has died out. In fact, reports from the UK suggest that it has mutated into a more virulent version called AY.1 or Delta+. Four, while India followed the UK when it came to increasing the gap between vaccine jabs to three months, it is deciding not to when it comes to moving towards lifting the lockdown. Considering India's terrible experience with the second wave, would it not be prudent to slow down the lockdown lifting process? The States have the option of reducing the pace of opening up to ensure in the meantime that the vaccination process finally gets streamlined, that vaccine unavailability and hesitancy both stand resolved and that virologists and the National Task Force obtain proof that the vaccines are effective in reducing hospitalisation and deaths. Importantly, it needs to be ascertained that the current rate of infection does not suffer a spike after the easing of restrictions because of sudden, inevitable laxity in following COVID-19 protocols in public places.

PICTALK



Life-size elephant sculptures at Green Park as part of the CoExistence Campaign, in London

The fall and rise of Oli as Nepal PM



RISHI GUPTA

Though he is likened to a ‘Prime Minister of no substance’, Oli is trying every trick in the book to remain in the saddle

A desperate Prime Minister KP Oli is leaving no stone unturned in consolidating his position. In doing so, he is making compromises that were once the exact opposite of his ultra-nationalistic outlook. After failing the confidence vote in Parliament on May 10, 2021, due to withdrawal of support by archrival Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’-led Maoist party, Oli had to resign. However, benefitting from the nexus with President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Oli was once again appointed as the Prime Minister considering his Communist Party of Nepal (UML) was still the largest party in Parliament. While the Opposition had requested the President to allow them to form the Government, Bhandari was in a hurry to appoint Oli.



Oli, on the other hand, appointed senior leader Rajendra Mahto as the Deputy Prime Minister, who is leading a faction of JSP and extended support to Oli. Mahto's appointment comes as a surprise as he had opposed Oli's anti-Madhesh ideology and criticised him for stopping the first amendment of the Citizenship Act. As a proud Khas-Arya (high caste hill people), Oli had vehemently opposed any amendment to the Citizenship laws which prevented Nepali citizenship to the children of a Nepali mother married to a foreigner. After Mahto supported the Government, Oli had recommended Citizenship Ordinance on May 23, which was promulgated within minutes. The ordinance will allow the issuance of citizenship by descent to all those children born to Nepali mothers whose fathers' whereabouts are unknown before September 20, 2015.

The ordinance is seen as part of the horse-trading pact between Oli and Rajendra Mahto to appease the Madhesh. Oli's long-term critic CK Lal claims that accommodating Mahto must not have been easy for a “populist demagogue to ignore xenophobia, swallow his jingoistic pride and accept Rajendra Mahto as the Deputy Prime Minister”. Meanwhile, the legality of the ordinance remains in question as it

requires approval by Parliament within 60 days. Since Parliament has been dissolved on May 21, the apex court has stayed its implementation as it could lead to long-term implications. A five-member Constitutional Bench has also issued show-cause notices to the offices of the PM and President to clarify on House dissolution on May 21 and shuffling of the Cabinet.

Feuds Within: To suppress the rising opposition within the UML, Oli has appointed party leader Raghuraj Mahaseth as the Deputy Prime Minister. Mahaseth is also appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs despite having no experience in the field. Another UML heavyweight, Bishnu Poudel, has been appointed Deputy Prime Minister and continues as the Minister of Finance. At the same time, Oli has removed Deputy Prime Minister Ishwar Pokhrel and a total of 13 Ministers, including Health Minister Hridayesh Tripathi and Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali, who carried out ill-intended foreign policy decisions towards New Delhi during the border row. In the past, Oli had suspended party leaders for speaking against him. However, in the present cir-

cumstances, more suspensions may lead to a credible opposition to Oli within the UML.

Misunderstanding resolved: Within a year of issuing a controversial map of Nepal showing India's territory as its own in the Kalapani region, accusing India for COVID-19 spread in Nepal, claiming that lord Ram was born in Nepal's Birgunj. In an interview to the BBC, Oli said: “Yes, there were misunderstandings at one time, but now those misunderstandings are gone. We should not be stuck in past misunderstandings but move forward looking at the future.” He also requested India to supply COVID-19 vaccines as a good neighbour. Although Oli did not clarify on what he meant by “misunderstanding”. With such remarks, Oli is again trying to reach out to New Delhi with his Madhesh card.

At present, almost 50 per cent of the Oli Cabinet consists of Madheshi leaders, which is a complete U-turn from his long-standing prejudice against the idea of Madhesh and Madheshi people. Knowing that the Khas-Arya may come after Oli for compromising with the Madhesh, Oli has no alternative to keep the premiership safe until new elections in

November.

While Oli's rapprochement towards India is short-term and politically motivated, in the hindsight it showcases the strong cultural and people-to-people links between Nepal and India. It is also a strong answer to China's deep-pocket diplomacy in Nepal. For decades, China has been trying to create artificial people-to-people ties with Nepal. However, Beijing often forgets that it was Tibet with whom Nepal had cultural ties and Tibet's forced annexation in 1950 did not transfer cultural claims to China. Therefore, Beijing needs to learn that political relations with Nepal are a result of a short-term compromise in Kathmandu. India has always supported the democratic aspirations of the people of Nepal and stands alone as the top development partner. China's expansionist outlook will sustain neither in Nepal nor in South Asia. Nevertheless, it will be difficult for India to fully trust Oli.

(The author is an ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at the JNU and Visiting Fellow at the Asian Institute of Diplomacy and International Affairs, Kathmandu. The views expressed are personal.)



AT PRESENT, ALMOST 50 PER CENT OF THE OLI CABINET CONSISTS OF MADHESI LEADERS, WHICH IS A COMPLETE U-TURN FROM HIS LONGSTANDING PREJUDICE AGAINST THE IDEA OF MADHESH AND MADHESI PEOPLE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SLOW SPEED OF VACCINATION A WORRY

Sir — The speed of vaccination in India is very slow. Seeing the large number of population, it becomes hard to run universal inoculation drive for the vast diversity of Indian nationals. The Government's data reveals that only 3.5 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated so far. The inoculation drive has enrolled more persons than who reach the centres for taking the jab. Many are technologically challenged and thus they cannot register themselves for registration at the CoWin app.

Can anyone imagine how fast the slots get booked in the evening for the following day's jab registration? People are struggling to get at least one dose of either of the vaccines. The elderly and the poor are the most vulnerable. It is good to hear that scientists predict that the third wave of COVID-19 in India is likely to be less severe than compared to the second wave. Thankfully, we can use this as an opportunity for improving the data and ensuring more and more people to get vaccinated. We have successfully suppressed the second wave, and the third wave is expected to peak soon. The gap period is not to waste but to plan the duration's usage to the maximum so that more and more people can benefit with the vaccination at the end of the day.

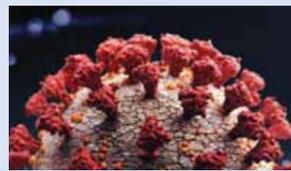
Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

ZOOONOTIC DISEASES AND PREVENTION

Sir — As the human cases of COVID-19 show a declining trend in India, zoonotic diseases are on the rise with several incidents of animals falling prey to it. Recently, nine Asiatic lions in the Chennai Vandalur Zoo got infected and one of them succumbed; besides, many elephants, tigers and leopards have died in Tamil Nadu and in other States.

Since India has a huge population, there are greater chances of transmission from animals to humans. According to a paper published in the Indian Journal of Community Medicine in March 2020, of the 1407 human pathogens detected, 816 were found to be zoonotic, which means these were capable of being transmitted naturally between animals and humans, which

The origin of Coronavirus



It has been 18 months since the outbreak of COVID-19. But the truth about the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the causative agent of the disease, still eludes the world. Even though how to end the pandemic has now become more important than knowing how it began, the interest in knowing the origin of the Novel Coronavirus has not waned. The accusation against China of a massive cover-up and the call for new investigation into the origin of the virus made by G7 leaders, including US President Joe Biden, have fuelled the debate over whether the virus occurred naturally or it was bioengineered in a lab in Wuhan. Some scientific leaders support the theory that the virus may have jumped from ani-

mals to humans, probably in a wet market in Wuhan that sold seafood and exotic animals for human consumption. There is also the theory that someone in the Wuhan lab boasting a large collection of bats for culture of virus may have been accidentally infected with the Novel Coronavirus.

There is a general consensus among scientists that COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease. The WHO still sticks to its stated position that the escape or leak of the virus from the Wuhan Institute of Virology was “highly unlikely”. It may be pointed out here that genetically designing and creating a virus in a lab and unleashing it as a bio-weapon on the world is a futuristic idea to discredit China with conspiracy theories, no matter what one's perception of that country is.

The issue has been politicised so much that to counter the US' lab incident hypothesis, Beijing has said that the US military hatched the virus and released it in China. We can all agree that science, scientific inquiries and investigations and scientific findings should prevail over geopolitics and geopolitical considerations.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

points to the increase in zoonotic diseases globally. These zoonotic infections' surge like H1N1, SARS, Ebola, Nipah, Zika can be attributed to the human-animal conflict through wildlife trade and increasing practice of injecting the livestock with antibiotics and steroids to enhance their production, narrowing the scope of natural livestock breeding.

The animal to human transmission of diseases is a threat to both the economy and the human species. A comprehensive strategy with a renewed focus on genome sequencing and carrying out testing, besides tracking on a large scale the animals, will be of immense benefit to humanity to tackle the crisis.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

GOVT HAS HONOURED PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Sir — This refers to ‘Opening Up’ (June 14). The historic decision by the Government to declassify the history of the wars and oper-

ations of national importance, so as to provide a transparent viewpoint to the citizens, is welcoming. After all, people have full right to know this declassified, compiled and published history of these historic moments.

Until the new policy for declassification came into picture, the war history remained a secret for everyone. But with the new policy's introduction, one can expect more clarity over war secrets and tactical approach adopted by the armed forces during the tough times of war and secret operations. The new policy brings more clarity over certain issues of wartime. The section of history lovers would now get excited to decode more information, as well as the facts that are still unknown to them about historic events of the previous wars and operations.

Dimple | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

As you complete your successful tenure as the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, I convey my profound gratitude for your leadership.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

The PML-N are the ones who mishandled the Kulbhushan Jadhav case. We are implementing the recommendations of the ICJ.



Pakistan Foreign Minister — Shah Mahmood Qureshi

Took my first dose of vaccine... It's the need of the hour in our fight against #corona.



Actor — Kirti Kulhari

I could have easily cried, but I see no reason for me crying because I tried everything. I could not come up with anything better.



Greece tennis player — Stefanos Tsitsipas

Chirag Paswan has committed so many blunders. Now, its results are coming in the form of a split in the party.



JD(U) national president — RCP Singh

The G7 world

How equipped is the grouping to tackle the changing world realities and the new challenges?

The three-day parleys at the G7 Summit in Carbis Bay ended at a positive note even as the world grapples with the Corona pandemic which has far-reaching economic consequences. COVID-19 indeed figured prominently at the G7 meet but the fervour was perhaps missing. The G7 looked desperate to show how united they were. The G7 is an informal grouping of strong economic powers. It unveiled the US-led plans to counter China in infrastructure funding for poorer nations. It also came up with an accord to prevent future pandemics. The G7 leaders said they would offer a “values-driven, high-standard and transparent” partnership. Their “Build Back Better World” (B3W) project is aimed to counter China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative. The world realities are changing fast and throwing up new challenges to this elite club which is mostly European and American grouping, after the departure of Russia. The membership of Russia was suspended in 2014 after it annexed Ukraine's Crimea region. Due to internal divisions, the relevance of G7 is under the scanner.

Moreover, the share of the G7 nations' GDP is constantly falling. The aggregate GDP of the G7 members has slid to 45 per cent of the global economy from nearly 70 per cent three decades ago. This naturally reduces its hold on the world economy as well as politics.

Besides, China has emerged as a big challenger, if not a threat, to the supremacy of the G7. G20 is more potent than the G7 today. For its shrinking clout, the G7 is itself to blame. G7 meets annually to discuss issues of global economic governance, international security and energy policy. Its follow-up on its declarations has been rather lacklustre. Its membership often completely ignores the emerging trends. For instance, it did not take China's emerging power into consideration and is oblivious to India. It has deep-rooted differences over trade and climate policies. President Joe Biden has pledged to restore the US' historical commitment to multilateralism. But G7 did not show unity or firmness in Russia's role in Syria, and Russian interference in the US and European elections. In 2017, divisions emerged within the G7 over a proposal to impose fresh sanctions on Russia. If G7 is to survive as a dominant force, it will have to renew its commitment to democracy and building a world order based on equitable and just world order.





FIRST COLUMN

WHEN VILLAGERS TURN TO QUACKS

Not to glorify them, but a handful of quacks in Bihar's countryside are helping out the villagers

AMRITANJ INDIWAR

Last week World Health Organization reported a 13 per cent decrease in new COVID-19 cases in India. However, the number of new infections in the country remains the highest in the world. Rural areas with no proper health infrastructure are bearing the brunt, forcing the villagers to turn to quacks for treatment. Lack of information about government hospitals, PHCs, medicine and vaccinations has affected regulation of the virus in rural areas. Worse, there are hardly a few or no doctors in government hospitals. Thus, quacks have ironically assumed a larger role in several villages across States. The situation in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district is no better. It had the highest number of reported cases in the country. Nearly 208 Covid-19 deaths were reported in 50 days since April 1. Around 315 people were cremated at one crematorium alone in this period. The rural areas of Sikanderpur, Mothijheel, Town Thana, Khabda, Ramdayalu, Patahi, Bhagwanpur, Bhikhampur and Mushahariblocks were most affected. Ragini, a resident of Alkapuri colony in Muzaffarpur, said: "Those who test positive are isolated in rooms. However, because the virus is highly stigmatized, the infected person is not treated well by the public." Ankush Singh, resident of Manika village in Mushahariblock, said that even after he recovered from the virus, no one was concerned about his well-being. He also complained about unprofessional behaviour and indifference of the block hospital doctor. Chemists and quacks showed better concern than the doctors, he said in a bitter voice.



In the Paru block, dispensary employees and quacks were treating people. Accepting that quacks were the first line of defence against COVID-19, District Councillor Devesh Chandra said they were a lifeline for more than 50,000 people in the block. These quacks have no medical degrees, but practice medicine based on their practical experience. Quacks Balam Shah, Umesh Prasad, Ganesh Pandit, Asharfi Bhagat, Parmeshwar Prasad, and others in Paru Block had decided to come forward and assist the villagers. "Whatever medical experience we have gained over the years, the villagers are benefiting from it. The situation was such that people were scared and unwilling to get vaccinated and, therefore, we decided not to leave them under such circumstances. We are likely to get infected in the process, but helping people is the need of the hour," said these quacks. The Block Medical Officer, on the other hand, stated that trained healthcare workers are going to villages for inspection, vaccination, and medicine on a regular basis. The situation in Bihar's Vaishali district is similar. Basant Kumar, a homeopathic practitioner said: "I went to the block health centre to get the rapid antigen test done. The centre was crowded with no guidelines being followed. Although I had registered myself, due to the huge crowd I had to return without getting tested. Two days later, I received a message on my mobile number informing that I had tested negative. I was shocked to receive that message." Others got such reports too and people are hesitant to visit government hospitals and are relying on quacks. The purpose of this article is not to glorify quacks, but it is equally important to note that if properly trained in pandemic protocols, these quacks can play a critical role in reaching out to villagers. They already share a relationship with them and can create awareness about preventive measures and vaccination in these hard-to-reach areas. The West Bengal government has already ordered training and tagging quacks with health workers to help survey rural areas and identify patients so that the treatment can start early. If successful, other states should also follow suit.

(The author represents Charkha — The Development Communication Network. The views expressed are personal)

Some answers nation wants to know

The Government wants us to believe that while it took about three months to administer 1.91 crore vaccine doses, it will administer 20 times higher doses in less than half the time



VEERAIIAH KONDURI

After much persuasion and the Supreme Court along with more than 10 High Courts taking the Central government to the task, Prime Minister Narendra Modi allowed the nation a peep into his idea on the question of vaccination. This latest address left me perplexed with several unaddressed questions. Let me list out some of them.

The address began with Prime Minister confessing the fact that the country is still coming to terms with COVID-19 second wave. But to our surprise, Home Minister Amith Shah told the media few days ago, "India managed to control the second wave of COVID-19 in a very short time" and attributed this success to the visionary (?) leadership of Modi. This double-speak once again confirms that even after such castigation, the Central government made its best attempt to live in its make-believe world. The Prime Minister continued with untruths for the next few minutes with regard to augmenting medical infrastructure facilities for the anti-virus fight-back. The Supreme Court had castigated the Centre on this very issue. The funniest part of the speech is his stress on the observance of COVID-19 protocols.

The Prime Minister also referred to Mission Indradhanush, the immunization program for children below six years and lactating mothers to bolster his government's capacities of mass immunisation campaigns. According to the 2011 census, population falling under the age group of 0-6 years stands at 13.59 per cent (16.45 crore). Even after launching Mission Indradhanush, according to the Prime Minister, it took five years to vaccinate additional 40 per cent of child population, that is, roughly seven crore. If the government took five to six years to inoculate the additional numbers, we can imagine the time required to inoculate the total adult population in the first place.

The Prime Minister claimed that India developed two Made-in-India vaccines within a span of one year which is not true and does not require any proof. India rolled out the vaccination drive on January 16, 2021. Surprisingly, the Finance Minister in her 2021-22 budget speech, which was presented barely a fortnight later, told the nation that India exported vaccine to about 100 countries. If we were to believe what Prime Minister told the nation, it is a deemed fact that the finance minister committed a breach of trust and violated parliamentary protocols by presenting untruths on the floor of the House for which, in normal times, she would have been served a privilege notice.

The Prime Minister himself launched the first phase vaccination drive on January 16, 2021 for three crore frontline health workers. As on April 19, only 37 per cent got full vaccination and an additional 91 lakh their first dose. In his address to the nation, Modi once again said that by the time he speaks to his fellow countrymen again, about 23 crore of doses have already been administered. The government wants us to believe that while it took about three months to administer 1.91 crore vaccine doses, it will administer 20 times higher doses in less than half the time? That means the government administered dosage at the rate of 46 lakh doses per day!

Doubts arose over the Prime Minister's assertions about funding research and development of vaccine by the Central government. The things are not matching between what the Prime



IF THE CENTRE PLAYS SMART AND SUCCEEDS IN TRANSFERRING THE COST OF VACCINATION OVERTLY OR COVERTLY ON TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS, THERE WILL BE A HOLE IN STATES' RESOURCES TO THE TUNE OF A MINIMUM OF ₹55,000 CRORE. THUS, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S VACCINATION POLICY IS LEAVING THE NATION WITH TWO SETS OF OPTIONS, EITHER TO CUT DOWN OTHER SOCIAL EXPENDITURE AND DIVERT MONEY FOR VACCINATION OR WATCH THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19

The author is former CWC member, All India Agricultural Workers Union. The views expressed are personal.



Minister said and what was submitted by the government's law officers to the Supreme Court. The affidavits filed by the government in response to its May 2 order said that no governmental aid, assistance or grant was given for research and development of COVID vaccine. The affidavit also states that the Indian Council of Medical Research spent about ₹ 44 crore for clinical trials and government paid about ₹2520 crore by way advance to purchase vaccine on May 10, 2021. Discarding government's own affidavits the Prime Minister told the nation that they funded thousands of crores for development of vaccine. We do hope that in the next submissions, the trusted Attorney General will correct his statements and let the country know about the thousands of crores the Prime Minister spent for development of vaccine program.

The Prime Minister in an attempt to defend the un-defensible, said his government's new path for the future was criticised by several forces including some state governments. This is totally baseless and an out of context contention.

Not only economic and health experts in India but those across the globe also criticised the Central government's unitary decisions

during first phase of COVID-19 spread. As we all know, the lockdown was declared in hours without even visualising what would be the impact on lives and livelihoods. The lockdown was extended for months leaving the state governments without any option but to implement the same grudgingly.

Towards the end of this speech, Modi made it clear that the state governments need not spend a single pie to vaccinate the population. But the question that slipped through his master oratory skills is about the allocation for health in the 2021-22 budget. According to the ministry of finance, the amount required for fully vaccinating the country would be to the tune of ₹91,000 crore whereas the total budget earmarked for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2021-22 is ₹71,268.77 crore only. The secretary, Department of Expenditure in his post-budget press conference stated that "the budget allocation is just part of what will be spent as state governments and corporates will also allocate sums for vaccination drive". However, only ₹35,000 crores are announced and that too failed to get a listing in expenditure under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Covering up this fact, the finance minister said that the amount earmarked towards

transfers to state governments will be counted as part of the ₹35000-crore vaccine funding. The expenditure department assesses that the allocations are enough to vaccinate 50 crore of the population.

This presents us with few dangerous possibilities. If the Central government mobilises ₹35,000 crore from its own resources, and wishes to honour the Prime Minister's assurance to the world, it will fall short by ₹56,000 crore. As the finance minister stated, if this ₹35,000 crore too is to be chipped in by diverting funds from amounts earmarked under Transfers to States, in addition to what is budgeted orally by Finance Minister, even then there will be short fall of nearly ₹20,000 crore, assuming that the cost estimated by secretary, Department of Expenditure is not breached. Or if the Central government plays smart and succeeds in transferring the cost of vaccination overtly or covertly on to the state governments, then there will be a hole in states' resources to the tune of a minimum of ₹55,000 crore. Thus, the Central government's vaccination policy is leaving the nation with two sets of options, either to cut down other social expenditure and divert money for vaccination or watch the increase in number of deaths due to COVID-19.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

MUKUL (ROY) IS OUR OLD MEMBER. HE WAS NOT IN A GOOD CONDITION IN THE BJP BECAUSE THEY CREATED PRESSURE ON HIM THROUGH AGENCIES.

—TRINAMOL CHIEF MAMATA BANERJEE



HE BEHAVED LIKE MIR JAFAR, BUT I AM NOT AT ALL SURPRISED. HE IS A BETRAYER. HE HAS NOT MADE ANY CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARTY.

—BARRACKPORE BJP MP ARJUN SINGH

Stop bank sales, empower the middle class instead

If nationalised banks are sold instead of taking corrective steps, it would mean social assets would decline leading to further economic chaos

The middle class, the backbone of the economy, is shrinking and the government announces sale of two major public sector banks, Central Bank of India (CBI) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB). Should India privatise critical assets when it needs the finances most? The sales instead would be used for one-time financing of budgetary deficits.

Both the banks like many other public sector banks (PSB) have shown improvement in their balance sheets. On June 8, shares of CBI and IOB soared seven and 14 percent, respectively after Niti Aayog announced their privatisation. Both lenders are currently under the prompt corrective action (PCA) imposed by the Reserve Bank of India and have shown marked



SHIVAJI SARKAR

The author is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.

improvements. This shows that the market is ready to lap up assets worth ₹9.7 lakh crore - CBI ₹3.56 lakh crore and IOB ₹2.44 lakh crore. Another asset of United Insurance is ₹3.7 lakh crore - a good sum for a race to a multi-trillion dollar economy.

The bank health is mysteriously linked to the growth of the middle class. Since 1969 nationalisation of banks for development purposes has helped both banks and depositors, largely from the middle class. But as the middle class got a jolt after the 2008 Lehman Brothers meltdown, it started taking the hit.

Moreover, a low-interest, high prices and high-tax-on-deposit regime marginally buffed up revenue figures, but caused impoverishment of the middle class. They are paying income

tax on a skewed higher income as interest and was not considered as hedging against inflation but unwisely as "income". This erodes savings.

Pew research, looking into the pandemic lockdown, says 33 million people in the last one year have slid into poverty from the supposed 99-million strong middle class. Poverty rate rose by 9.7 percent in 2020, up from January, 2020 forecast of 4.3 percent and are projected to have reached 134 million. If the food dole is a standard the pandemic has hit 80 crore people. Lower incomes and lesser consumption capacity define this class now. If instead of corrective steps nationalised banks are sold, it would mean social assets would decline. It is often said that PSBs are unable to cope up with pri-



private banks. This is a misnomer. India's private banks Axis, ICICI, HDFC and others have a record

of being eroded by their own bosses. Axis has asset quality problems, ICICI was moth-eaten by its chief executive Chanda Kochhar and HDFC was fined ₹10 crore for wrongfully selling third-party non-financial products to its auto loan customers. By privatizing big financial institutions would they be forced to go the unethical, chaotic way?

The CBI has 33,481 employees in 4,685 branches and IOB 26,334 in 3,400 branches. Once privatized, one-third or more employees would lose jobs.

Despite the PCA curbs, both lenders have managed to grow their loan books. Central Bank's gross advances rose nearly three percent between March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2021 to ₹1.77 lakh crore. IOB's advances stood at ₹1.37 lakh crore as on

December 31, 2020, up two percent year-on-year. Central Bank's deposits grew over five percent in a year to ₹3.3 lakh crore as on March 31, 2021 and IOB's deposits also increased to ₹2.34 lakh crore as on December 31, 2020.

Since nationalisation, the Indian banking sector expanded at an unmatched level but it made banks prone to political interference for many purposes including the 2008 incentivisation of the rich corporate or Jan Dhan accounts that raised operational costs. Largely the financial woes of the PSBs are not due to corruption and nepotism alone.

Many loans of banks like Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Axis bank and IDBI Bank were writ-

ten off to shore up balance sheets. The quantum of PSB loan stood at ₹32,853 crore higher than recoveries of ₹23,894 crore. Such figures are gradually coming down.

This also does not justify the process of privatization. Even the United Insurance is preferred to most private insurers as its claim settlement process is more realistic and ethical.

It is not easy to create ₹10 billion assets. It might now go to a defaulter? Retaining the asset would help government boost economic activities and jobs. An empowered middle class with lower taxes and TDS exemptions on deposits can do wonders. Mere change in approach could strengthen the economy and open up many avenues for the government.

Retail inflation hits 6-month high of 6.3%

WHOLESALE INFLATION AT RECORD 12.94 PC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rising prices of edible oils and protein rich items pushed the retail inflation to a six-month high of 6.3 per cent in May, breaching the comfort level of the Reserve Bank and thus rendering reduction in interest rates a difficult proposition in the near term.

The government has asked the Reserve Bank to keep the retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

CPI inflation has breached the upper band of the inflation target about 10 times since the first meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which decides the key interest rate, in October 2016.

Wholesale price-based inflation too accelerated to a



record 12.94 per cent in May on account of rising prices of crude oil, manufactured goods and the low base of last year due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

While the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rose from 4.23 per cent in April to a six-month high of 6.3 per cent, food inflation soared from 1.96 per cent to 5.01 per cent in May.

The previous high in retail inflation was 6.93 per cent in November 2020.

In May 2020, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was (-) 3.37 per cent and in April 2021, it hit

double digits at 10.49 per cent. This is the fifth straight month of uptick seen in WPI inflation.

As per the data on CPI, factored in by the RBI while arriving at its monetary policy, the steepest price rise was witnessed in the 'oils and fuel' segment, which on an annual basis showed an increase of 30.84 per cent.

The May CPI data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) further revealed that the rate of price rise in 'meat and fish', 'egg', 'fruits', and 'pulses and products' stood at 9.03 per cent, 15.16 per cent, 11.98 per cent, and 9.39 per cent, respectively.

Reports of its foreign investors' accounts being frozen 'blatantly erroneous': Adani group

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Monday said it has written confirmation that accounts of three foreign funds that are among its top shareholders are not frozen and reports to the contrary are "blatantly erroneous and misleading".

Shares of Adani group companies plunged on Monday after reports that the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) froze the accounts of the three foreign funds that are among the top stakeholders in the firms.

Adani Enterprises, the conglomerate's flagship company, as also Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Adani Green Energy Ltd, Adani Transmission Ltd, Adani Power and Adani Total Gas Ltd in identical filings to the stock exchanges said the reports of NSDL freezing accounts of Albula Investment Fund, Cresta Fund and APMS Investment Fund holding shares in the group firms were



"blatantly erroneous and is done to deliberately mislead the investing community."

"This is causing irreparable loss of economic value to the investors at large and reputation of the group," they said. Given the seriousness of the issue and its consequential adverse impact on minority investors, "we requested Registrar and Transfer Agent, with respect to the status of the Demat Account(s) of the aforesaid funds and have their written confirmation vide its e-mail dated 14th June, 2021, clarifying that the Demat Account(s) in which the aforesaid funds hold the shares of the company are not frozen," the firms said.

Markets maintain record run as Reliance rallies

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty erased initial losses to finish at fresh lifetime highs on Monday, buoyed by brisk buying in market heavyweight Reliance Industries.

Positive global cues and a declining trend in new COVID-19 cases added to the momentum, traders said.

Rising for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 76.77 points or 0.15 per cent higher at its new closing peak of 52,551.53.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 12.50 points or 0.08 per cent to a record 15,811.85.

Reliance Industries topped the Sensex gainers' list with a jump of 1.46 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, ONGC, Infosys, PowerGrid, L&T and IndusInd Bank.

On the other hand, Kotak Bank, HDFC, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Auto, NTPC, Maruti and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards, shedding up to 1.51 per cent.

Gold futures fall on low demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell by ₹476 to ₹48,427 per 10 grams in the futures trade on Monday as speculators reduced their positions amid low demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for the August delivery traded lower by ₹476, or 0.97 per cent, to ₹48,427 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 11,087 lots.

Rupee logs longest losing streak in 2 months, tumbles 22 paise against

Mumbai: The Indian rupee ended 22 paise lower at 73.29 against the US dollar on Monday, sliding for the fifth straight session amid rising crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened on a negative note at 73.21 per dollar as against its previous close of 73.07. It hovered in the range of 73.10 to 73.29 per dollar during the day before ending at 73.29 - equalling its lowest level recorded a month ago.

However, billionaire Gautam Adani's group said it has written confirmation that accounts of the three foreign funds are not frozen and reports to the contrary are "blatantly erroneous and misleading".

I-T dept allows manual filing of tax forms for foreign remittance as new e-filing portal continues to face glitches

New Delhi (PTI): The income tax department on Monday allowed manual filing of certain

forms after the new tax filing portal continued to face tech glitches even after a week of its

launch. The I-T department issued a circular allowing manual fil-

ing of Form 15CA/15CB (required for foreign remittances) with banks till June 30,

so that business transactions may go on. The forms will be

uploaded online on the e-filing portal later, it added. The new portal,

www.Incometax.Gov.In, was launched last Monday (June 7), with the tax department as well

as the government saying it was aimed at making compliance more taxpayer-friendly.

NIFTY 50		BSE 500			
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	15791.40	15823.05	15606.50	15811.85	12.50
ADANI	4334.65	4410.00	4311.00	4398.00	6.50
TATAMOTORS	350.05	357.90	341.10	355.85	5.10
RELIANCE	2215.00	2258.25	2195.05	2245.00	31.85
WIPRO	553.90	562.80	553.00	562.10	7.80
BAJFINANCE	6099.70	6249.00	5975.60	6198.95	78.95
ONGC	124.40	125.80	121.25	125.00	1.45
POWERGRID	247.95	249.80	242.10	249.00	2.80
SHREECEM	2800.00	2835.00	2775.20	2832.35	30.65
BRITANNIA	3557.90	3598.00	3510.45	3595.00	37.10
INDUSINDBK	1012.00	1028.00	993.75	1024.90	9.80
INFY	1471.00	1477.00	1453.45	1460.00	13.10
CELESTIA	972.70	979.00	957.00	975.70	7.85
LI	1530.45	1519.50	1478.00	1514.65	11.20
HINDUNILVR	2348.40	2375.10	2336.60	2362.20	16.70
TATASTEEL	1168.00	1178.65	1140.00	1164.50	6.15
ULTRACEMCO	6655.00	6685.90	6580.00	6682.50	19.65
HINDALCO	392.95	397.50	381.35	394.30	1.15
BAJAJFINSV	11851.00	12015.00	11671.65	11940.00	32.50
TATACONSUM	715.40	717.00	702.60	717.00	1.60
HCLTECH	980.00	988.45	976.00	984.90	1.55
DREDDY	5453.00	5515.00	5370.00	5460.70	7.70
NESTLEIND	17640.00	17630.00	17417.60	17555.25	18.85
TCS	3279.00	3308.70	3270.35	3271.35	3.35
TITAN	1728.45	1740.00	1713.00	1730.20	1.75
SBIN	427.00	432.45	417.00	430.00	0.40
BPCL	483.95	485.00	476.00	483.30	-0.30
HDFCLIFE	682.60	685.00	674.30	682.10	-0.50
ASIANPAINT	2855.10	2970.00	2916.50	2933.70	-2.55
GRASIM	191.50	197.70	187.20	189.30	-1.20
UPL	838.20	838.20	815.20	834.00	-1.15
EICHERMOT	2740.00	2771.85	2711.00	2742.00	-4.40
ITC	207.95	208.45	205.20	207.55	-0.35
ICICIBANK	635.70	636.10	623.35	634.50	-1.20
BHARTIARTL	540.85	540.85	529.30	539.50	-1.35
M&M	809.00	809.00	794.00	806.80	-2.20
SBILIFE	988.10	992.75	971.35	985.00	-3.10
AXISBANK	735.90	741.40	725.00	736.00	-2.45
TECHM	1073.00	1079.35	1058.00	1069.30	-3.70
JSWSTEEL	732.65	737.20	714.65	728.10	-3.10
HDFCRANK	1478.25	1486.00	1462.55	1480.00	-6.35
IOC	115.25	115.70	114.50	114.50	-0.60
MARUTI	7195.00	7212.75	7055.05	7181.15	-42.65
SUNPHARMA	682.00	682.00	671.55	677.10	-4.20
HEROMOTOCO	3010.00	3016.95	2943.00	2985.20	-19.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	4173.00	4195.50	4127.15	4145.00	-27.50
NTPC	118.80	118.80	116.25	117.90	-0.90
HDFC	2559.80	2559.80	2526.65	2540.20	-19.60
KOTAKBANK	1789.90	1789.90	1759.50	1767.30	-2.60
COALINDIA	164.00	164.00	155.35	159.20	-3.45
ADANI-PORTS	755.80	783.70	681.10	762.00	-77.75

NIFTY NEXT 50					
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	39046.65	39125.75	38290.25	39129.95	-172.90
TORNTPHARM	2875.00	2996.00	2839.00	2981.00	101.20
DMART	3180.00	3294.00	3108.05	3276.40	100.85
GODREJCP	898.95	924.75	888.05	919.10	19.65
MUTHOOTFIN	1484.10	1514.90	1445.10	1503.00	28.65
PNB	41.80	41.75	40.40	42.80	0.80
ICICIPRULI	578.00	593.35	567.20	589.90	9.25
HINDPRTY	297.40	300.50	292.60	298.30	3.85
NMDC	183.90	187.00	180.75	186.20	2.10
ALOK	3305.00	3329.00	3145.60	3324.90	27.65
AMBUJACEM	337.90	340.90	332.50	340.05	2.35
ADANI-GREEN	1156.85	1257.00	1156.85	1226.00	8.30
ACC	2022.00	2043.50	1990.05	2038.00	13.50
BERGPAINT	806.10	810.50	795.30	810.40	4.40
MRF	8200.05	8312.95	8121.30	8259.00	377.50
PETRONET	233.75	233.75	229.10	232.75	1.00
APOLLOHOSP	3345.00	3365.00	3285.00	3348.00	11.45
HAVELLS	1020.00	1029.00	1001.00	1020.00	2.90
MARICO	494.75	495.95	486.20	493.45	1.20
DABUR	564.95	571.50	560.25	565.55	1.35
MOTHERSUN	244.70	246.70	237.40	245.00	0.35
MCDOWELL-N	647.00	651.80	636.90	646.85	0.80
PIDILITIND	2115.00	2118.00	2082.05	2118.00	1.05
BOSCHLTD	15950.00	15981.00	15554.30	15924.90	5.65
NAUKRI	468.00	471.80	458.00	468.00	-0.90
LI	4215.00	4239.00	4125.65	4168.00	-5.85
UBL	1379.85	1384.90	1352.50	1370.30	-3.30
JUBLFOOD	3234.90	3238.00	3165.00	3239.90	8.10
INDUSTOWER	256.00	256.00	250.00	254.90	-0.70
HDFCAMC	3094.90	3094.90	3015.25	3081.00	-12.00
GAIL	164.40	164.40	161.00	163.10	-0.65
ABBOTINDIA	16400.00	16554.75	16107.05	16240.25	-67.05
BIOCEN	415.00	415.00	405.05	412.50	-2.50
PGHIL	1309.35	1309.50	1289.00	1300.05	-85.35
COLPAL	1701.20	1710.00	1683.10	1690.00	-11.15
ICIGI	1515.00	1525.00	1494.00	1505.00	-10.75
BANDHANBANK	319.45	319.45	313.10	317.05	-2.35
IGL	540.00	540.00	527.00	532.00	-4.30
INDIGO	1800.00	1801.10	1765.45	1776.05	-15.60
VEDL	276.95	277.40	268.25	273.65	-2.60
BAJAJHLING	3525.00	3525.00	3477.95	3490.30	-35.50
PEL	2252.90	2252.90	2161.00	2221.65	-31.15
CADILAC	688.50	688.50	639.15	655.90	-9.45
SIEMENS	2100.00	2112.35	2052.25	2068.80	-30.80
SIROPHARMA	1014.60	1018.00	982.30	993.50	-16.30
AUBACORP	1100.00	1103.50	1075.10	1076.50	-18.20
YESBANK	14.40	14.40	13.90	14.45	-0.25
LUPIN	1190.00	1205.50	1173.10	1194.00	-36.35
DLF	313.95	314.50	292.65	299.95	-10.10
ADANI-TRANS	1522.50	1522.50	1522.50	1522.50	-80.10
ADANI-ENT	1441.45	1529.95	1201.20	1510.35	-91.25

RUPEE vs Dollar	
DATE	RUPEE vs DOLLAR
7	72.89 (-9p)
8	72.97 (-8p)
9	73.06 (-9p)
10	73.07 (-1p)
11	73.07 (-1p)
12	73.07 (-1p)
13	73.07 (-1p)
14	73.29 (-22p)

BSE Sensex		NSE Nifty	
DATE	SENSEX	DATE	NIFTY
JUN 14	52,551.53	JUN 14	15,811.85
JUN 15	52,551.53	JUN 15	15,811.85

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
SCRIP	CHANGE	SCRIP	CHANGE
Reliance	1.46	Maruti	-1.51
Bajaj Finance	1.46	HDFC	-0.76
ONGC	1.05	Sun Pharma	-0.59
Infosys	1.01	Bajaj Auto	-0.57
Power Grid	0.97	NTPC	-0.51

China tried to warn US off strengthening Quad: Biden

London: US President Joe Biden has revealed how China tried to warn him off strengthening the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, referred to as the Quad as an informal strategic partnership between India, Japan, Australia and the United States.

Addressing a press conference at the conclusion of the UK-hosted G7 Summit in Cornwall on Sunday, the President who took charge in the White House earlier this year said that in his conversation with a Chinese leader he was asked about his international relations plans before he assumed the presidency. Biden did not reveal the identity of the Chinese leader.

Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke to Biden for two hours in February, days after he assumed office as the US President.

On February 11, President Biden said: "Last night, I was on the phone for two straight hours with Xi Jinping. And you all know as well as I do, these folks - and it was a good conversation. I know him well. We spent a lot of time together over the years I was Vice President."

"When I was asked what I was going to be doing after being elected, I said we're going to re-establish the strength of American relationships so we can be counted on again..." Biden recalled on Sunday of the meeting with the unidentified Chinese leader.

The Chinese leader then requested him to not get India, Japan, Australia, and the US together under the Quad umbrella.

Biden said the Chinese leader suggested that, "Well, maybe you (Biden) shouldn't get the Quad..." - meaning India, Japan, Australia, and the United States - "...working together." Known as the "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue," representatives for the four member nations have met periodically since its establishment in 2007.

Interestingly, Biden hosted the first virtual summit of Quad leaders on March 12.

During the summit,

President Biden told leaders of the coalition that a "free and open" Indo-Pacific is essential to their countries and vowed that his country was committed to working with its partners and allies in the region to achieve stability.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga attended the virtual summit.

The Quad member states have been resolving to uphold a rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific amid growing Chinese assertiveness in the region.

The Quadrilateral alliance is often projected in the official media in China as an alliance against the Communist giant's rise. China's military and the foreign ministry have repeatedly criticised the Biden administration for continuing the Trump era "Indo-Pacific strategy," saying the US should not form "cliques" or provoke "new Cold War" featuring bloc confrontation.

Human Rights Watch charged that the allegations being heard in a special court in the capital, Naypyitaw, are "bogus and politically motivated" with the intention of nullifying the victory and preventing Suu Kyi from running for office again.

Putin likens Russian crackdown to arresting Capitol rioters

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is to meet President Joe Biden at a summit Wednesday, has suggested that the hundreds of people arrested for rioting at the U.S. Capitol are being subjected to "persecution for political opinions."

Putin is likely to come under strong criticism from Biden at their meeting in Geneva for moves against his political opponents in Russia, particularly the imprisonment

of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, the detention of thousands of demonstrators protesting his arrest, and the outlawing of Navalny's organisations as extremist.

"You are presenting it as dissent and intolerance toward dissent in Russia. We view it completely differently," he said in an interview with NBC News broadcast Monday.

He then pointed to the January 6 insurrection in Washington when protesters

barged into the Capitol to try to halt the count of electoral votes to certify Biden's election victory over Donald Trump.

"Do you know that 450 individuals were arrested after entering the Congress? ... They came there with political demands," he said.

Although the protests that erupted across Russia after Navalny's arrest in January were un sanctioned, demonstrators were largely peaceful and did not enter Government buildings or cause significant property damage, unlike the

Capitol riot. Putin also reiterated denials that the Kremlin was behind last year's poisoning of Navalny with a nerve agent that nearly killed him.

"We don't have this kind of habit, of assassinating anybody," Putin said.

"Did you order the assassination of the woman who walked into the Congress and who was shot and killed by a policeman?" Putin said, referring to Trump supporter Ashli Babbitt, who was fatally shot by a Capitol Police officer as she tried to climb through a win-

dow that led to the House floor.

Putin also sharply dismissed allegations that Russia is carrying out cyberattacks against the United States as baseless.

"Where is the evidence? Where is proof? It's becoming farcical," Putin said. "We have been accused of all kinds of things - election interference, cyberattacks and so on and so forth - and not once, not one time, did they bother to produce any kind of evidence or proof, just unfounded accusations."

Ousted Myanmar leader on trial; critics say charges bogus

Bangkok: Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi was set to go on trial Monday on charges that many observers have criticized as attempt by the military junta that deposed her to delegitimise her democratic election and cripple her political future.

Suu Kyi's prosecution poses the greatest challenge for the 75-year-old and her National League for Democracy party since February's military coup, which prevented them from taking office for a second five-year term following last year's landslide election victory.

The army seized power on February 1 before the new lawmakers could be seated, and arrested Suu Kyi, who held the post of special counsellor, and President Win Myint, along with other members of her Government and ruling party.

"This trial is clearly the opening salvo in an overall strategy to neuter Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy party as a force that can challenge military rule in the future," said Phil Robertson, the organization's deputy Asia director.

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Jerusalem: For the first time in 12 years, Israelis on Monday woke up to a new Government and a new Prime Minister after Naftali Bennett secured the backing of Parliament and ousted longtime leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

The two were slated to hold a handover meeting later in the day, but without the formal ceremony that traditionally accompanies a change in Government.

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, narrowly approved the new Bennett-led coalition Government on Sunday, ending Netanyahu's historic 12-year rule. The divisive former prime minister, the longest to hold office, will now serve as the opposition leader.

David Bitan, a Likud lawmaker, told *Kan public radio* that Netanyahu was not holding the handover ceremony with Bennett because he feels "cheated" by the formation of the Bennett-Lapid government and "doesn't want to give even the slightest legitimacy to this matter."

Some in the countries that once were part of the Soviet Union or the Moscow-led Warsaw Pact during the Cold War worry that Washington could scale down support for its allies in the region in a bid to secure a more stable and predictable relationship with Russia.

"I think there have been doubts as to the resoluteness of the present administration to face Russian aggressive actions in a decisive manner," said Witold Rodkiewicz, chief specialist on Russian politics at Warsaw's Center of Eastern Studies, a state-funded think tank that advises the Polish Government.

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NATO nations ready to jointly respond to attacks in space

Brussels: NATO leaders on Monday will expand the use of their all for one, one for all, collective defense clause to include attacks in space, the military organisation's top civilian official said.

Article 5 of NATO's founding treaty states that attack on any one of the 30 allies will be considered an attack on them all. So far, it's only applied to more traditional military attacks on land, sea, or in the air, and more recently in cyberspace.

"I think it is important (with) our Article 5, which states that an attack on one will be regarded as an attack on all, that we all will respond," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, at a German Marshall Fund think tank event.

"We will make it clear at this summit that, of course, any attack on space capabilities like satellites and so on or attacks from space will or could trigger Article 5," he said, a few

hours before chairing a summit with U.S. President Joe Biden and his counterparts.

Around 2,000 satellites orbit the earth, over half operated by NATO countries, ensuring everything from mobile phone and banking services to weather forecasts. Military commanders rely on some of them to navigate, communicate, share intelligence and detect missile launches.

US assessing complaint of leak in Chinese nuclear power plant

Beijing: The US government is assessing a report of a leak at a Chinese nuclear power plant, after a French company that partly owns and helps to operate it warned of an "imminent radiological threat," a media report said on Monday.

The warning included an accusation that the Chinese safety authority was raising the acceptable limits for radiation detection outside the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong province in order to avoid having to shut it down, the CNN quoted a letter from the French company to the US Department of Energy.

There is no reaction yet in Beijing by the Chinese government or officials on this report, it said.

The media report said despite the alarming notification from Framatome, the French company, the Biden administration believes the facility is not yet at a "crisis level"

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Biden meets leaders of 3 Baltic nations

Brussels: President Joe Biden has met with the leaders of three Baltic nations at the NATO summit in a move to reassure them of U.S. support before his Wednesday summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva.

The White House says Biden met Monday with Prime Minister Kaja Kallas of Estonia, President Egils Levits of Latvia, and President Gitanas Nausėda of Lithuania and "underscored strong U.S. support" for their security.

The White House added: "The four leaders

committed to further strengthening our political, military, and economic partnerships, including working together through NATO to address challenges posed by Russia and China."

"NATO doesn't see China as rival-like Russia: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says NATO leaders do not see China as an adversary in the same way that the military organisation views Russia, but that they must come to terms with the Asian giant's growing influence."

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FROM PAGE 1

5% POST-JAB CASES SERIOUS, 488 SUCCUMBED: MINISTRY

the former having a major share. A total 23.5 crore doses have been administered in this period between January 16 to June 7. This means AEFI cases - at 26,200 - accounted for just about 0.01 per cent of the total doses administered.

In other words, over a period of 143 days, one out of every 10,000 people vaccinated against Covid-19 developed complications after receiving the jab. Two in every 10 lakh people vaccinated died.

While 24,703 cases (or 94 per cent of the total AEFI cases) were linked to Covishield, Covaxin accounted for 1,497.

According to the CoWin portal, twenty-one crore doses of Covishield were used between January 16 - the day COVID-19 vaccinations began in India - and June 7. This number for Covaxin is comparatively very low at two-and-a-half crore.

AEFI cases are untoward medical occurrences that take place after immunisation. To be sure, they do not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of vaccines, according to the Union Health Ministry. AEFI cases are of three types. Common and minor AEFI cases include fever, pain and swelling at injection site or irritability. In the next level (severe), such cases do not lead to long-term problems but can be disabling. They include pain and swelling, which spread beyond the nearest joint, or even high-grade fever. Serious AEFI cases are conditions requiring hospitalisation or leading to death or disability.

bhaitja soured after Chirag went against Nitish Kumar in the Bihar assembly polls and reportedly threatened to throw out Paras from the party for opposing it. Paras, who has an excellent grip over the party cadres, bid his time but kept in close touch with Nitish Kumar.

Paras on Monday lauded Nitish Kumar as a good leader and "vikas purush" (development-oriented man), highlighting the deep fault lines within the party as his nephew, Chirag Paswan has been a strong critic of the JD(U) president.

He asserted that 99 per cent of LJP workers were unhappy with the turn of events in Bihar as Chirag Paswan led his party against the JD(U) and fared poorly in the 2020 assembly polls.

Soon after Paras spoke to reporters, Paswan drove to his uncle's residence in the national capital to meet him. Paswan's cousin and MP Prince Raj also stays at the same address.

After spending over 90 minutes at the residence of Paras and Prince Raj, Paswan left without saying a word to the waiting media persons. It is believed that neither of the two rebel MPs met him. A household help said the two were not at home when the LJP chief arrived.

Sources close to him have blamed the JD(U) for the split, saying the party had long been working to isolate the LJP president after his decision to go all out against Chief Minister Kumar in the 2020 Assembly polls.

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Tuesday."Today, most of the restaurants are cleaning the places, and a very few in our area have opened shutters. Small cafes have suffered huge losses in the lockdown and are still feeling cagey to reopen as people won't come out much due to fear of Covid," said Rajesh Rana, manager of Pind Balluchi's Lajpat Nagar outlet. At Raasta and Yeti restaurants, the process of sanitisation and vaccination of staff is going on and the doors will be opened to the public by next week only.

In Himachal Pradesh, a large number of tourists o Shimla, Kullu-Manali and Dharamsala, thronged on the first day after opening its borders to outsiders without the mandatory RT-PCR negative report, which led to traffic jams. Within a few hours of the opening of the borders, long serpentine queues of vehicles could be witnessed at the entry points. Over 10,000 vehicles are learnt to have entered Shimla within hours from the Shogi barrier. A heavy rush of tourists was witnessed on the Ridge and The Mall Road in Shimla. The police also slapped challans on a few violators.

Though the unlock announcement by various States across India has triggered a mixed reaction online with many still worried about the high number of Covid-19 cases and availability of vaccines, a section of the internet responded with jokes and memes.

The West Bengal has allowed reopening of Government and private offices with 25 per cent capacity easing some of the restrictions. Employers have to arrange for transporting employees. The Uttarakhnad has extended the Covid-19 curfew in the hill State by one more week to June 22. In an important relaxation, the residents of Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi have been permitted to visit the Char Dham sites of Badrinath, Kedarnath and Gangotri-Yamunotri, respectively.

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PEOPLE THROG MARKETS, FLOUT COVID NORMS AS STATES OPEN

Dine-in facilities were barred in Delhi since April 17, when the first weekend lockdown was imposed in a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19 infection in the city.

"The measures in place include mandatory daily wellness and temperature checks for everyone (crew, customers and delivery partners), compulsory face masks, enhanced focus on hand hygiene with frequent hand washing and gloves for the crew," said Rajeev Ranjan, Chief Operating Officer, Connaught Plaza Restaurants Pvt Ltd, which operates McDonald's restaurants in north and east India.

Restaurants in south Delhi's Lajpat Nagar and Moolchand areas largely remained closed or opened shutters for just cleaning the premises on Monday. In the Central Market area, pan-India restaurant chain Pind Balluchi also reopened its outlet on Monday, but its manager said, dining services will practically begin from

Tuesday."Today, most of the restaurants are cleaning the places, and a very few in our area have opened shutters. Small cafes have suffered huge losses in the lockdown and are still feeling cagey to reopen as people won't come out much due to fear of Covid," said Rajesh Rana, manager of Pind Balluchi's Lajpat Nagar outlet. At Raasta and Yeti restaurants, the process of sanitisation and vaccination of staff is going on and the doors will be opened to the public by next week only.

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YEAR AFTER SSR'S DEATH, CBI YET TO FINISH PROBE

On being prodded on the hiccups in the probe, a senior official said, "Unless other agencies, Enforcement Directorate and Narcotics Control Bureau, conclude their investigation in the related matter, the CBI cannot submit a final report as more leads can emerge from the probes by the sister agencies."

The case remains inconclusive despite an AIIMS medical board report terming Rajput's death a case of suicide.

Rajput, 34, was found hanging in his

apartment in Mumbai's upscale suburb Bandra on June 14 last year.

The CBI had taken over the probe on August 5 into alleged abetment of suicide case from the Bihar police that had on July 25 booked Rajput's alleged girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her relatives for abetment to suicide and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) like theft and criminal breach of trust among others.

After taking over the case, the CBI had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Joint Director Manoj Sridhar, Deputy Inspector General Gagandeep Gambhir and Superintendent of Police Nupur Prasad, all IPS officers, besides another SP Anil Yadav. However, the agency could not make much headway into the case.

The SIT has so far recorded statements of the accused and received the forensic reports from the AIIMS panel led by the head of the premier medical institution's forensics department, Sudhir Gupta.

The AIIMS panel had ruled out the possibility of "poisoning and strangling" in Rajput's death case.

In September, Gupta had said, "It is a case of hanging and death by suicide. We have submitted our conclusive report to the CBI."

Following the AIIMS panel report, the CBI had in a statement said that the probe was continuing.

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INDIA BEHIND CHINA, PAK IN NUKE NUMBERS

In its yearbook SIPRI yearbook 2021, the report said despite an overall decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2020, more have been deployed with operational forces. The report assessed the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security.

The nine countries had an estimated 13,080 nuclear weapons at the start of 2021. This marked a decrease from the 13,400 that the SIPRI estimated these states possessed at the beginning of 2020, the report said.

Drawing a distinction between deployed warheads and other warheads, the report said deployed refers to warheads placed on missiles or located on bases with operational forces. On the other hand, other warheads refers to stored or reserve warheads and retired warheads awaiting dismantlement.

Despite this overall decrease, the estimated number of nuclear weapons currently deployed with operational forces increased to 3,825, from 3,720 last year.

Moreover, around 2,000 of these - nearly all of which belonged to Russia or the USA - were kept in a state of high operational alert, it noted.

While the USA and Russia continued to reduce their overall nuclear weapon inventories by dismantling retired warheads in 2020, both are estimated to have had around 50 more nuclear warheads in operational deployment at the start of 2021 than a year earlier.

Russia also increased its overall military nuclear stockpile by around 180 warheads, mainly due to deployment of more multi-warhead land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and sea-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).

Also, both countries' deployed strategic nuclear forces remained within the limits set by the 2010 Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START), although the treaty does not limit total nuclear warhead inventories.

"The overall number of warheads in global military stockpiles now appears to be increasing, a worrisome sign that the declining trend that has characterised global nuclear arsenals since the end of the cold war has stalled," said Hans M Kristensen, Associate Senior Fellow with SIPRI's Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme and Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS).

Russia and the USA together possess over 90 per cent of global nuclear weapons. Both have extensive and expensive programmes under way to replace and modernise their nuclear warheads, missile and aircraft delivery systems, and production facilities.

"Both Russia and the USA appear to be increasing the importance they attribute to nuclear weapons in their national security strategies," Kristensen said.

All the other seven nuclear-armed states are also either developing or deploying new weapon systems or have announced their intention to do so. The UK's "Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy", published in early 2021, reversed a policy of reducing the country's nuclear arsenal and raised its planned ceiling for nuclear weapons from 180 to 260.

North Korea continues to enhance its military nuclear programme as a central element of its national security strategy. While it conducted no nuclear test explosions or long-range ballistic missile tests during 2020, it continued production of fissile material and development of short-

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"The entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in early 2021 highlights the growing divide between the nuclear-armed states, which are all investing in the long-term future of their nuclear forces, and other countries that are impatient to see progress on nuclear disarmament promised by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," said Matt Korda, Associate Researcher with SIPRI's Nuclear Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme and Research Associate with the FAS Nuclear Information Project.

OPP SEEKS PM'S CLARIFICATIONS, SC INVESTIGATION

18.5 crore with the help of trust member Anil Mishra. Terming it a case of money laundering, SP leader Pawan Pandey and AAP leader Sanjay Singh sought a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the matter.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who is also in-charge of the party's affairs in Uttar Pradesh said misuse of donations by devotees is a sin and an insult to their faith. "Crores of people made their offerings at the feet of God out of their faith and devotion. Misuse of those donations is unrighteous and is a sin and an insult to their faith," she said in a tweet in Hindi.

Congress alleged that it was a "big scam" committed by using funds collected from devotees and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should answer whether those behind it had his protection. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the facts that have come to light point to a "big scam" in funds collected from devotees and this amounts to committing a big sin and wrongdoing. But Prime Minister Modi, who formed the trust on the directions of the Supreme Court, is totally silent, Surjewala said.

"Will the Prime Minister answer if those sinners, who have traded the faith of Lord Ram's devotees, have his protection," he said.

Former External Affairs Minister and senior TMC leader Yashwant Sinha lashed out at the PM Modi saying "Ram ka Saath, Modi ka Vishwas ho Hamara Vikas. Had hi ho gaye. Ram ko Bhi Nah chhori. Ab kya bacha? Modi hai to mumkin hai." Sinha was one of the tallest leaders of the BJP for two decades before he joined TMC early this year.

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LoveYourLiver

A team of researchers from IIT Mandi has identified the underlying biochemical relationship between the consumption of excessive sugar and the development of a fatty liver, medically known as Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD). NAFLD is a condition in which excess fat deposits in the liver. The disease starts silently, with no overt symptoms for as much as two decades



DOCYARD

DR JAGDISHWAR GOUD
GAJAGOWNI

Head, Dept of Surgical
Oncology,
Yashoda Cancer
Institute
YASHODA HOSPITAL
SECUNDERABAD TELANGANA



Don't ignore
these signs



The esophagus or the food pipe is the tube that connects the mouth with the stomach. Esophagus cancer occurs when there is a formation of tumours anywhere along the length of the esophagus, from the opening in the mouth to the point where it meets the stomach. As it grows, it affects nerves, muscles and eventually other organs. Some of the main causes that lead to the increased risk of esophagus cancer include smoking, drinking alcohol and steaming hot beverages, obesity, and not enough intake of fruits and vegetables.

Esophagus cancer is the sixth most common cause of cancer deaths globally and is not easily detected. That is the reason the majority of esophageal cancer cases are diagnosed only in advanced stages. Therefore, it is imperative to look out for symptoms of esophagus cancer before it's too late. Esophageal cancer may not show signs in its early stages; however, as the disease advances, it shows the following symptoms:

Difficulty in swallowing (Dysphagia): One of the most common esophageal cancer symptoms is trouble swallowing, particularly a feeling of food stuck in the throat caused by the tumor growing on the inner lining of the esophagus. These symptoms tend to intensify, with a rise in discomfort when swallowing progressively.

A recurrent cough or a hoarse, scratchy voice may also signify the existence of esophageal cancer

Hiccups and vomiting: Frequent hiccupping and vomiting are also symptoms individuals must look out for, as the narrowing of the esophagus obstructs the food from going down smoothly, with more chances of the food getting stuck and being pushed back up.

Chest pain and heartburn: Recurring chest pains and chronic heartburn in the lower chest area happens due to acid reflux. Acid reflux occurs when the stomach acid flows back into the food pipe (or esophagus).

Change in voice and throat discomfort: A recurrent cough or a hoarse, scratchy voice may also signify the existence of esophageal cancer. In this case, the tumour compresses the nerves that control the vocal cords' proper functioning, causing the voice to become hoarse.

Weight loss: Unexpected weight loss affects roughly 50 per cent of people with esophageal cancer. This may be caused due to swallowing difficulties or a cancer-related reduction in appetite. One can experience dramatic weight loss even when the person is on a healthy diet.

The treatment approaches for esophageal cancer aim to take the tumour out or shrink the tumour to prevent it from growing. Depending upon the factors like size, type, and place of cancer growth, and age of the person, the following are the three types of treatment approaches recommended for esophagus cancer:

Surgery: In the early stages, when cancer hasn't spread to other parts of the body, or in advanced stages, when cancer has also spread to the stomach, along with the infected sections of the esophagus, minimally invasive surgery is suggested. In which case, the part of the esophagus with the tumor is removed along with the lymph nodes, and the remaining part is reconnected using sections from the small or large intestines as required. The most advanced method to perform the esophagectomy is using Robotic-Assisted Surgery with the da Vinci surgical system in which, with a small incision, the cancer is removed with precision leaving minimal scars and quicker recovery time.

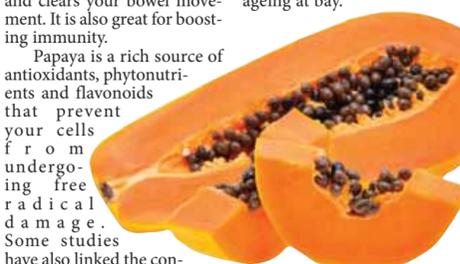
Chemotherapy: Depending upon the cancer stage, location and size, chemotherapy is usually recommended, either before or after the surgery. This treatment approach helps slow down the progression of cancer, prevents recurrence, and helps relieve the symptoms.

SUMMER COOLER

PAPAYA: Rich in fibre, Vitamin C and antioxidants which prevent cholesterol build up in your arteries, papaya is just the right fruit for summers.

Papaya helps in weight loss because the fibre content in papaya leaves you feeling full and clears your bowel movement. It is also great for boosting immunity.

Papaya is a rich source of antioxidants, phytonutrients and flavonoids that prevent your cells from undergoing free radical damage. Some studies have also linked the consumption papaya to reduced risk of colon and prostate cancer. Not only this, but the presence of several vitamins and nutrients in the fruit also help in preventing the skin from free radical damage thereby keeping all the signs of ageing at bay.



JAB STAYS IMPORTANT

A group of experts suggest that those infected with COVID don't need to get vaccinated, others believe it is too early to say so. MUSBA HASHMI brings you a report

Only last week, a group of experts opined that patients who had recovered from COVID, don't need to get vaccinated, as they have already developed antibodies. This came weeks after the Health Ministry had recommended COVID patients to get vaccinated after three months of recovery.

However, not many doctors are happy with the claim and say that it is too soon to say anything. "Our knowledge about COVID is in constant flux. Currently, the data says vaccine should be given after 90 days from the infection for best results. Whether there is lasting immunity after initial COVID infection is still a matter of debate, hence although it may seem likely that in the future vaccination may not be required after infection it is not the case at the moment," Dr Chandril Chugh, Director, Dr Good Deed, Patna, says.

He adds that all infected people should get vaccinated after three months. "Every time our body is exposed to an infection a sort of blueprint or memory is formed to counter future infections, if they may arise. Hence, antibodies are not the only measure of protection against infection, memory cells also play their part," he tells you.

There is data that antibodies can persist after COVID infection anywhere from three to eight months, Chugh asserts.

However, with that being said, cases of reinfection is not an alien concept. Chugh believes that these can be attributed to the mutations in the virus.

"Reinfections can be attributed to a lot of factors like different variants and/or low immunity. Though, the chances of reinfections are low and it doesn't affect a majority of patients. As more and more data comes, we will have better answers but remember even though you are vaccinated you should wear mask and take precautions," he opines.

Dr Piyush Goel, Senior Consultant — Pulmonary and Critical Care, Columbia Asia Hospital, Palam Vihar, Gurugram, insists that patients should get vaccinated after at least 12 weeks of recovery. "A patient who got infected with the virus, too should get vaccinated after at least 12 weeks of getting cured," Goel says and adds that there is no such robust data to analyse how long antibodies stay but they will be there for at least three months post recovery.

The reason for reinfection, he says, is because antibodies can disappear after three months, or can decrease to a certain level, and as a result can't prevent a person from getting reinfection.

Dr Arunesh Kumar, Sr Consultant & Head Respiratory Medicine/Pulmonology, Paras Hospital, agrees with Chugh and

The data says vaccine to COVID recovered people should be given only after 90 days. Whether there is lasting immunity after initial infection is still a matter of debate. Although it is likely that in the future vaccination may not be required after infection

— Dr Chandril Chugh

Goel and says that in the absence of proper studies we should resort to vaccines only as they are your best available protective shield against the virus.

"It is too early to say COVID recovered patients don't need vaccination. The reason is there's no proper data of how long the immunity stays, it may differ from person to person and can even depend on the severity of the infection. Some say mild COVID patients can have higher immunity. Again, there are no facts yet to prove it. Also, we can't rule out the possibility of mutations. It can lead to reinfection. So, for the time being, we would recommend people to get vaccinated," Kumar says.

Dr Col Vijay Dutta, Senior Consultant — Internal Medicine, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, too agrees on the fact that COVID infected patients have immunity which can last for three to six months and that it has been documented. "We don't know whether this acquired immunity will last beyond six months or not. The present data is only valid maximum up to six months irrespective of the clinical status of the patient — whether he had mild, moderate or severe infection," Dutta says.

Several other doctors opine that we should wait for proper studies to back the fact and decide later on. Meanwhile, as said previously, your jab stays important.

DadiKaKehna

Monsoons are here and with it, various issues like cough, cold and skin diseases. ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help you beat the monsoon blues



The present pandemic has made us paranoid and fear-psychosis is high. With the change in weather, once again, the chances of cough and cold are high. While it is prudent to consult a doctor, given the present scenario, here is what you can do to prevent the onset of cough.

My mother always gave us *doodh* and *haldi* to drink at night.

Turmeric has antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal properties. Drinking the golden milk as it is often referred to is a great home remedy against colds. In fact, it is said it has immune-boosting properties. Take a glass of warm water and add a teaspoon of

honey. Stir and drink. It soothes the throat.

A good option is to add lemon to warm water and honey. Lemon has many health benefits; it helps soothe a sore throat and chest congestion. Squeeze half a lemon in a big mug of warm water. Add honey and salt to this mixture.

Oily skin is common, it leaves the face sticky especially during the rainy season. A simple remedy is: Take 200 ml rose water, a teaspoon of camphor and a teaspoon of dried mint powder. Mix and refrigerate. Use it to wipe face two-three a day.



Fill up those cracks

Cracked skin is common, especially if one tends to wash hands often. DR AJAY RANA lists easy ways that can help one get rid of it

Cracked skin can usually appear when the skin barrier is compromised. It's a symptom of dry and irritated skin, but there are many possible causes especially the change in the temperature. Feet, hands, and lips are more prone to cracking as compared to other parts.

Any rashes, cuts or marks on the cracked skin typically occur when a person's skin is dry or irritated. Dry and cracked skin can be itchy, flaking and bleed. You may feel unpleasant sensations when applying any product to cracked skin.

It is the most common skin problem that people face during summers. Severe hand and wrist dryness from over-washing is a condition that causes the appearance of cracked skin. To prevent its appearance, it requires using moisturiser

every time the hands are washed. In some cases, cracked skin can also be a symptom of an underlying medical condition. In some people, cracked skin condition may occur due to a skin condition, such as eczema or Psoriasis, or because the skin came into contact with an irritating substance. In smooth and hydrated skin, natural oils present in the skin layer prevent the skin from drying out by retaining moisture. But if the skin doesn't contain enough oil then it loses moisture, which makes the skin shrink, which leads it to cracking.

There are many ways you can treat your cracked skin at home if the condition isn't too severe. You may try one of these self-care treatments:

Moisturising: Since dry skin can cause cracked skin and in most of the cases can

worsen it, it's important to keep your skin well hydrated. Apply moisturiser frequently on the affected areas.

- Use skincare products that contain ingredients such as jojoba oil, coconut oil, olive oil and shea butter.
- Avoid washing hands with hot water. Taking hot baths and showers can worsen dry or cracked skin.
- Use topical hydrocortisone cream. It contains corticosteroids, which reduce any kind of irritation and swelling.
- Exfoliate your skin regularly. Gentle exfoliation helps to remove dead, dry cells from the surface of the skin. This remedy is the most effective that is recommended for cracked feet and heels.

The writer is Dermatologist, Aesthetic Physician and Founder-Director of Ilamed

LET'S WORK IT OUT

Easing back in to exercise can be a task, especially after a long break. VAIBHAV SOMANI shares easy tips that can help you get back into the exercise routine



If you are in the lockdown mode at your home or struggling with making time from work commitments, family obligations and doing household chores,

it may seem daunting and impossible to accelerate anything else on the plate. As a consequence, people tend to give up the one thing they don't wish to do — exercise. And long before you know it your non-work-out days would have extended into weeks or months.

Whatever the reason of your busyness, there are ways to tug yourself out of a work-out rut and make an enduring routine. So irrespective of whether you are a sports person, a regular housewife or a fitness enthusiast, its never a bad idea to shake your self up and get back into the exercise routine.

Here, are the few points that will help you get back on track.

Planning: One of the first steps, before you dive back into an exercise routine, is to plan out what you want to achieve, how you want to get there, and what you want your routine to look like. It is always advisable to start small and not undertake any aggressive exercises if its been quite a while since you last worked out.

Setting up a goal: One thing lockdown has assured is that most of us have gained weight. If you have put on a lot of weight during this time, then you need to set a target, what you're expecting and how much weight you want to achieve. The setting goal will always give you a holistic approach that includes stretching, cool down and work-out sessions.

Schedule your workout like you schedule your meeting: Discipline is a must in this case. As you ease back into your fitness routine, don't forget to make a schedule for your workout session. There is a high possibility that your mind will subconsciously look for excuses to not work out and look out for distraction to deter from your plan. Schedule a time that you won't get easily distracted, if you know you can get caught up with work in the evening then schedule your time for a workout in the morning or vice versa.

Start with an easy workout: As they say, the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Getting started is sometimes the hardest part, as you feel less motivated and don't know where to start. It is better to start the exercise routine at a slightly less intense pace and gradually increase the momentum with time. The high intense routines initially will exhaust you quickly and may eventually feel like too much to deal with, so start small but practice consistently.

Eating right to get back into shape: If you listen to your grandparents most of them would tell you to avoid eating out of a 'ready made packet', which means avoiding junk food and eating mindfully. Eating a well-balanced diet can assist you to get the calories and nutrients you require to fuel the daily activities and help you reach your work out goals.

Things to avoid: People tend to over-do the exercise initially and end up being hurt or injured as the body. So, don't set too many unrealistic goals at once and ditch the all-or-nothing mind-set.

The writer is Director, Gravitite

INBRIEF

As the whole country scrambles to navigate through the worst public health disaster in recent memory, a few organisations and companies are looking to contribute their bit by ensuring protection and treatment for their own employees. With a view to secure the health and lives of their employees, among several measures, these few companies are also taking recourse to COVID-focused telehealth solutions easing the load on the already struggling public health infrastructure and services in the country. And in this endeavor, Apollo Telehealth has emerged as a significant partner of choice for these companies. Apollo Telehealth's Tele-Covid Management, a notch above the popular doc-on-call telehealth solutions, being a one of its kind offering, is proving to be a lifeline for these companies.

"With our existing healthcare systems struggling to provide adequate services and facilities in these trying times when a shortage of ICU beds and oxygen supplies have become an everyday experience for most people, Tele-Covid Management ensures that end-to-end treatment and solutions is provided for all corporate employees enrolled for the programme. With provision for separate isolation wards, tele-ICUs, tele-emergency and tele-specialist services offered as part of a comprehensive module, we have ensured that these employee-patients receive continuous consultation and care," said Vikram Thaploo, CEO, Apollo TeleHealth.



SEIZE YOUR MOMENT

Old-fashioned discussions on women in business are holding us from making any real progress, says PRIYANKA GUPTA ZIELINSKI

COVID-19 has, among other things, proven to be a disrupter for women in a family business, both in a good and bad way. It has challenged existing gender roles and accelerated women's entry to the forefront of household and business sustainability.

Here are some of the big risks that this drawn-out pandemic poses for women in businesses and the ways we can seek opportunities for growth in this downturn.

Stop sounding old-fashioned and repetitive

Parochial discussions about women in business centred around glass ceilings and work-life balances have dominated the narrative for too long. Every conversation on women entering the workforce is structured along the same topics. There is a need for a different, refreshing perspective on gender, moving forward. Women have evolved in the workplace but the articulation of their agenda has become anachronistic. The past two decades, and now the pandemic, have drastically changed the economy, so much so that we can no longer continue to speak of women as though they need encouragement.

Women run a grave danger of alienating themselves if they continue to sound old-fashioned. Women have to own their success and start showing that they have already made it.

In family businesses, women no longer need to be just in the supporting roles or in charge of the family's charity arm. They need



to start moving into other growth and development areas of the core business.

Break out of the princess trap

Women groomed and raised in business families are often confined to their princess trap, to play into the "daddy's little girl" trope and seek traditional validation for their ambition. At work, there is an exit date ticker blinking and marking the last day in the business — the day they get married.

The community is unable to visualise and accept an alternative for women. This creates immense pressure on the ones in business. Women need to assert their individualism and define themselves separately from the herd mindset. The need of the hour is to change the conversation entirely so that women are longer defined by their marital status.

Leverage the disruptions and channel female-centric authenticity

The realities of gender disruption in this pandemic revealed what women need to fight for and what must change to obtain access to opportunities of all kinds. What is clear is that authentic female leadership must prevail and an audacious delivery of women's agenda will go further along in clearing a path for women's entry and success in businesses. This pandemic era has witnessed women

in command, taking charge in the struggle for the survival of their nations and finances. Countries with women who are head of the state such as Denmark, Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Germany and Slovakia have been internationally recognised for the effectiveness of their response to the pandemic. In a way, this crisis is an accelerator that has made women come to the forefront faster — causing disruption in a good way. It is becoming evident that women are more efficient because they are more prudent and avoid excessive risk-taking strategies.

Reimagine success through a gendered lens

Women should be participate in all the current and relevant conversations, be it digitisation, crypto or drone deliveries. They need to show up at the workplace day in and day out to demonstrate persistence. The men, however supportive they may be, have and continue to reserve the decision making for themselves. That is why women must show that they are equal to them in knowledge and intellectual capacity. They should no longer settle for feel-good, accommodating quotas such as 'one woman on the board'.

How often do we see men apologising for their inability to multitask, grapple with nuances, deal with change? Rarely, if ever. Men are hard-wired to perceive themselves as belonging in every conversation, whether they add value to it or not. It is high time that we understand that women form the crux of the family and every business, as owners, suppliers and consumers. No conversation is complete without this sisterhood.

(The writer is a business leader, entrepreneur and author of The Ultimate Family Business Survival Guide.)



Lead actor Arya Putra, director Avinash Bawankar and executive producer Aditya Garg captured during the announcement of forthcoming web series *Suicide?*, a biopic based on the life of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Sushant, who was born and bred in Patna, was reportedly an avid reader who was deeply interested in astrophysics. In 2003, he secured the seventh rank in India to gain entry into Delhi College of Engineering (now known as Delhi Technical University). He later dropped out to pursue his interests in acting. On June 14, 2020 Sushant allegedly died by suicide. However, there is an ongoing CBI probe into the same and an official stated that the case is being meticulously looked into. Photo: Pankaj Kumar



Pore problems?

Celebrity dermatologist NIKETA SONAVANE shares some lesser-known facts about this skincare concern



We've all come across serums and creams that promise tighter pores or even 'poreless' skin. But can any serum, face mask, or pore strip truly shrink your pores to an invisible size? As you might expect, the idea that topical products can shrink your pores is false. More importantly, you can never completely eliminate pores; they play an important role in maintaining skin health

and without them we'd be doomed. Pores are necessary for the normal structure and function of the skin. Pores are simply hair follicle openings, and each pore contains its own sebaceous gland, which produces oil, or sebum. Your skin requires sebum for lubrication and protection but an excess of sebum can cause breakouts, and a lack of sebum can cause dry skin. We have no control over

the size of our pores due to genetics. However, if you want your pores to appear smaller, here are some pointers.

Is it a bad thing to have large pores?

While large pores may appear frightening in a magnifying mirror, they generally pose no health risks. Most people seek to reduce pore size for cosmetic reasons, as irregular-looking pores can make the skin appear textured, older, and damaged. Big pores also create an easy place for makeup to collect because they are more pronounced. As a result, makeup applied over the pores may have a cakey appearance, which can be distracting in photographs.

While large pores can be a cosmetic annoyance, they can also be beneficial in some cases. Large pores are not always bad for your health and they may even be beneficial as you get older. Since larger pores produce more oil, this can be beneficial as we age and our skin becomes drier.

How to use topical treatments to reduce the appearance of pores

While it may be cosmetically beneficial to reduce the appearance of pores, we cannot change the size of the pore itself. Instead, there are numerous methods for temporarily refining pores. These include using cosmetic products containing *dimethicone*, a silicone ingredient that sits on top of the skin and reduces the appearance of pores, such as sunscreen and foundation.

Some skincare products can also help in reducing the appearance of pores. Consider products with active ingredients that contain acids, particularly glycolic and *salicylic* acids, or retinol, as they work to unclog pores. These ingredients promote skin cell turnover, which aids in the

unclogging of pores, making them appear smaller.

Last but not least, wearing sun protection every day can make a huge difference. Wearing SPF products regularly helps reduce redness, irritation, and discoloration, all of which affect pore appearance. Sun exposure ages skin and contributes to collagen breakdown, causing the skin to lose elasticity, which dilates pores and makes them appear larger.

When it comes to SPF, I may sound like a broken record, but it is, without a doubt, the most important product in anyone's regimen. It is the most effective tool we have for preventing collagen breakdown, which is one of the main reasons our pores appear larger.

Do medical-grade procedures ensure more effective outcomes?

Although topical products can help clean pores and reduce their appearance, only medical-grade procedures can produce more visible results. These include dermatologist-administered micro-needling and laser treatments, which typically require no downtime and no recovery time.

There is no downtime with the *Fraxel* laser, and it can improve pigmentation, fine lines, and the appearance of pores.

Similarly, procedures involving the use of botulinum toxin are prohibited. Botox can be effective in reducing sebum production and pore size by acting directly on the sebaceous and other glands.

Consider skin polishing or microdermabrasion if you want something more effective than at-home cleansing but less drastic than an in-office treatment. It can be quite effective at minimising the appearance of pores.

—IANS



Never give up

TAHIR RAJ BHASIN feels that the hardships you encounter are stepping stones for future glory. By TEAM VIVA

Bollywood actor Tahir Raj Bhasin has made a sensational disclosure. Tahir, who stamped his presence in Bollywood through his brilliant acting, is a rank outsider to the industry. He shared he was rejected 250 times before he was signed on by Aditya Chopra for *Mardaani* (2014), a film that fetched him a Filmfare award nomination for Best Supporting Actor and the Screen Award for the Best Antagonist.

Tahir revealed, "Anything that's worthwhile takes time and this is something I understood when I first came to Mumbai. I was rejected from some 250 auditions over three years before *Mardaani* but I used that as positive fuel and feedback. It meant I needed to grow and growth came from workshops and hours of practice."

He added, "The improvements that came as a result of obstacles, prepared me to be propelled forward when the time was right. (My) strength lay in getting hit and in the will to keep moving forward. Today's world is all about that

simple message. We have all been affected directly or indirectly by an unforeseen situation and courage lies in making ourselves better, fitter and stronger for the future."

Despite the overwhelming number of rejections, Tahir never lost hope and believed he was destined to shine in Bollywood. "To be honest, I never saw my initial time in Mumbai as a struggling phase. It was an aspiring phase. I was visualising a dream and aspiring to make it real and it's the hardship and journey that make the successes worth celebrating," he said.

Tahir will be seen in *Loop Lapeta* as a romantic lead opposite Taapsee Pannu, in *Bulbul Tarang* opposite Sonakshi Sinha and *Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhlein*, in which he has been paired with Sweta Tripathi. He will also be seen in the Ranveer Singh starrer *83*, directed by Kabir Khan, in which he plays the role of the legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. With several good projects under his belt, it is time for Tahir to shine bright in tinseltown.

TRENDBLAZER



WANT FULFILLING ROLES: VIDYA

Actor VIDYA BALAN who will be essaying the role of an upright forest officer on the lookout for a man-eating tigress in her new film, *Sherri*, says she wants to do work that is an extension of her belief. "I want to work in projects that would mean something to me, work that would excite me and fulfill me. Therefore, I went ahead and made the choices that I made." *Sherri* releases on June 18 on Amazon Prime.

fairtalk



'*Lagaan* was, is, and continues to be an amazing journey for me. It has been a journey in which I have met exciting new people, made new friends, started relationships that have lasted over two decades, learnt so much and experienced so many emotions. This journey has shaped me in so many ways.'

dailytalk



'I try to bring focus towards inclusivity as much as possible with my films and social media, and I do feel that people need to be aware of the intersex movement. As actors, we are fortunate that we can raise awareness for such important issues and I'm trying to do my bit by speaking about Pride month.'

KATE MOSS: THE TATTOO ARTIST

Model KATE MOSS has revealed that she has been taking lessons from her tattoo artist friend Daniel Casone, as she wants to go to Glastonbury to ink people. "She said she wanted to learn tattooing from me. She called me to go up and tattoo her and she ended up tattooing me as well. She gave me a 'Kate' and a heart on my arm," Casone told *The Sunday Mirror* newspaper.



WHAT A SCHICK SHOW

Patrik scores brace including one from the halfway line in Czech's 2-0 win over Scotland



AFP ■ GLASGOW

Scotland's long-awaited return to a major International tournament was ruined by Patrik Schick's slick finishing as the Czech Republic won 2-0 at Hampden on Monday to move top of Euro 2020 Group D.

Schick's header just before half-time opened the scoring, but it was his stunning strike from just inside the Scotland half after the break that will live in the memory as one of the all-time great European Championship goals.

After a 23-year wait to qualify for a major tournament, Scotland's hopes of making more history by getting out of the group for the first time now look slim. Steve Clarke's men face England next on Friday at Wembley before hosting World Cup finalists Croatia at Hampden on June 22.

Poison on the ball normally provided by Kieran Tierney on the left side of a back three.

Without the Arsenal defender, Liverpool's Andy Robertson was his side's biggest threat with a series of rampaging runs.

A cagey game of few chances burst into life after Schick's towering leap put the visitors in front three minutes before half-time.

Scotland were slow to react after initially clearing a corner and the Bayer Leverkusen forward rose highest to flick home Vladimir Coufal's cross.

Marshall was called into action to make two quick saves from Schick and Vladimir Darida in an explosive start to the second-half.

But twice Scotland were inches away from levelling when Jack Hendry's dipping effort came back off the crossbar before Vadik clawed away a mishit clearance from Tomas Kalas.

However, the home side were stunned by a moment of brilliance from Schick on 52 minutes as he spotted Marshall off his line from halfway and bent in an incredible shot from just inside the Scotland half.

Dramatic win for Dutch

Dumfries late header helps Oranje return to big time with 3-2 success

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Denzel Dumfries scored a dramatic late winner as the Netherlands marked their long-awaited return to a major tournament with a 3-2 victory over Ukraine in a remarkable Euro 2020 game in Amsterdam on Sunday.

Dumfries, the PSV Eindhoven full-back, headed in a cross from substitute Nathan Ake to complete a madcap second half after the home side eased into a two-goal lead and then threw it away.

Captain Georginio Wijnaldum and Wout Weghorst both scored before the hour mark in front of a raucous crowd at the Johan Cruyff Arena, only for Ukraine to silence the home supporters as Andriy Yarmolenko and Roman Yaremchuk netted to briefly restore parity. Frank de Boer's side got there in the end and the victory will provide a major lift to the Netherlands after what was their first game at a major competition in seven years.

They will now hope to build on it on Thursday against Austria, who beat North Macedonia earlier in Bucharest in the same Group C.

It was a brilliant game, and a crowd of around 16,000 created an atmosphere fit for the occasion at the home of Ajax, where supporters held up banners with messages of support for Christian Eriksen following the Denmark star's cardiac arrest on Saturday.

Eriksen made his name at Ajax before moving to Tottenham Hotspur in 2013.

After failing to qualify for Euro 2016 or the 2018 World Cup in Russia, the Netherlands were playing their first game at a major competition since beating hosts Brazil 3-0 to claim third place at the 2014 World Cup.

They had not won a game at a Euro in almost exactly 13 years, since Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Robin van Persie netted in a 2-0 win over Romania at Euro 2008.



Brazil start Copa defence with win

AFP ■ BRASILIA



Star forward Neymar netted a penalty and created a second as hosts Brazil eased to a 3-0 victory over a coronavirus-depleted Venezuela on Sunday in the opening match of the 2021 Copa America.

Centre-back Marquinhos opened the scoring through the first half and Gabriel Barbosa sealed the Group B win a minute from time.

In a tournament already delayed a year and moved from its original hosts Argentina and Colombia due to the pandemic, it was fitting that the coronavirus should take centre-stage right up to the tournament kick-off.

Played in front of an empty Mané Garrincha stadium due to Covid-19 restrictions, Brazil made light of the continent's minnows, who arrived with a makeshift side missing eight players ruled out after testing positive for coronavirus the day before.

Venezuela called up 15 emergency replacements but could still only name seven out of a possible 12 substitutes due to a lack of available players.

Brazil took the lead on 23 minutes when Richarlison flicked on a Neymar corner that deflected into Marquinhos's path inside the six-yard box, allowing the centre-back to bundle home.

Richarlison had a goal ruled out for offside while Neymar incredibly fired wide from 12 yards out as Brazil threatened to put the game to bed before half-time.

It was more of the same after the break as substitute Alex Sandro from distance and Richarlison with a header both shot over the bar.

Neymar somehow failed to turn home a cross-cum-shot from Gabriel Jesus from three yards out but on 64 minutes he doubled the lead from the penalty spot.

Yohan Cumana clumsily brought down Danilo in the box and Neymar sent Graterol the wrong way on 12 yards.

The hosts took their foot off the gas but Neymar kept probing and was denied a second by Graterol following a mazy run and shot from inside the box.

Neymar then created the third, rounding Graterol before crossing for Gabriel Barbosa to chest home from barely a yard out.

"He's developed the ability to create. Right foot, left foot, he's become an unpredictable player," Brazil coach Tite enthused about Neymar.

In the second match, Edwin Cardona scored the only goal of the game as Colombia held on under second half pressure to begin their Group B campaign with a 1-0 win over Ecuador — who thrashed them 6-1 the last time the sides met in a World Cup qualifier in November.

Colombia's goal was a thing of beauty with Cardona taking a short free-kick to Juan Cuadrado, who chipped the ball into the box for Miguel Borja to head down into the path of Cardona to volley home.

It was initially disallowed for offside but a VAR review showed that while three Colombian players were beyond the defensive line, Cardona and Borja were inside.

Chhetri targets record feat against Afghanistan

PTI ■ DOHA

Goal-machine Sunil Chhetri will look to add to his tally and enter the all-time top 10 scorers' list as a buoyant India meet Afghanistan in the joint 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers here on Tuesday.

While the Indian team needs just a draw from their final game against Afghanistan to secure a place in the third round of AFC Asian Cup qualifiers after Oman defeated Afghanistan 2-1 on Friday, a hat-trick for Chhetri will see him equal the iconic Pele in terms of numbers of goals scored in the International arena.

Chhetri is also just one goal off entering the all-time top-10 list of goal-scorers, something he can easily achieve against

Afghanistan, if not a hat-trick. A Chhetri-inspired India ended their winless run in International football when the captain struck a brace against Bangladesh in their previous outing.

The talk since then mostly centred around the Indian striker surpassing the legendary Lionel Messi as International football's second highest scorer among active players.

A veteran in top-flight at 36, Chhetri played down the comparisons with the Argentine global superstar, but he will certainly look to put his best foot forward come the next match and add to his tally of 74 goals.

If the Blue Tigers can avoid defeat in the upcoming match, they will finish third in their group, an improvement over



the fifth-place result during the last campaign. India are already out of con-

temption to progress further in the World Cup qualifying campaign, and is now looking to secure a

berth in 2023 Asian Cup, scheduled to be held in China.

India will enter the game as clear favourites despite Afghanistan's ability to fight it out.

Igor Stimac's men will be high on confidence after thoroughly dominating Bangladesh, against whom they enjoyed nearly 75% possession while completing more than 600 passes.

If they are to repeat that kind of impressive stats, India will need the duo of Chhetri and Manvir Singh to fire upfront, with Brandon Fernandes marshalling the midfield and keep-

ing the supply chain flowing.

India are currently placed on six points after seven matches in comparison to Afghanistan's five points from seven games.

Form and past record both favour India and anything less than a victory for the Blue Tigers will be seen as an upset.

As far as Afghanistan are concerned, they will take heart from their spirited performance in their previous outing against India, who were held to a stalemate at home by their lower-ranked opponents in 2019.

But the recent defeat against Oman means Afghanistan are not among the top fourth-placed teams in the World Cup qualifiers and a failure to win against India would send them to the playoffs just to get into the third round of Asian Cup qualifiers.

shortpasses

HASAN ALI TO REMAIN IN PSL
ABU DHABI: Islamabad United fast bowler Hasan Ali has decided to stay for the rest of the Pakistan Super League after resolving a family matter. Hasan was due to fly back home on Sunday, but will now remain in Abu Dhabi and complete Pakistan's premier Twenty20 league.

RAHIM WINS ICC AWARD
DUBAI: Former Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim and Scottish all-rounder Kathryn Bryce were on Monday adjudged the ICC Players of the Month for May in the men's and women's categories respectively. Mushfiqur played one Test and three ODIs against Sri Lanka, where he helped Bangladesh win their first ODI series against Sri Lanka by scoring 125 in the second game in Dhaka last month.

TITMUS NARROWLY MISSES WR
ADELAIDE: A sizzling Ariarne Titmus clocked the second fastest 200m freestyle in history on Monday, narrowly missing the 12-year-old world record, while Kaylee McKeown swam the year's quickest 200m medley as they ramped up Olympic preparations.

MALVIKA WINS CROWN
KAUNAS: India's Malvika Bansod defeated Rachael Darragh of Ireland 21-14, 21-11 to clinch the women's singles crown at the RSL Lithuanian International badminton tournament here.

FARAH TO TRY FOR OLYMPICS
LONDON: Two-time Olympic 10,000m champion Mo Farah will make a last-gasp attempt to qualify for the Tokyo Games at the British Athletics Championships in Manchester on June 25.

1.6M \$ FOR WTC FINAL WINNERS
DUBAI: The winner of the upcoming World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand will walk away with a prize money of \$1.6 million along with the Test Championship Mace, the International Cricket Council said on Monday.

INDIA SEEM MORE FEARLESS
BRISTOL: The Indian women's team has become more 'fearless' than ever, feels England's newly-appointed vice-captain Nat Sciver, who is hoping that the conditions will favour her team against the opponents' heady mix of experience and youth in the upcoming Test here.

Rahane offers Test batting tips to Mithali & Co

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Playing close to the body, working on mindset and setting small targets are some of tips that Indian men's Test team vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane gave to Mithali Raj & Co ahead of their first red-ball game in seven years, against England.

According to sources in the know of developments, Rahane, a Test specialist with 73 games and over 4500 runs under his belt, was requested by women's team head coach Ramesh Powar for a session, primarily with the batters before they left for England.

"Ramesh and Ajinkya have been teammates. Since our girls are playing Test match after seven years, the coach thought that it would be a good idea to have a session where one of the best in the business will talk about Test match batting."

"It was a 50-minute zoom session that was arranged when both teams were in quarantine in Mumbai," a senior official privy to the development said.

The match is starting on Wednesday. It is learnt that skipper Mithali, her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and all the batters, along with senior pacer Shikha Pandey, spoke to Rahane about the long-form batting.

In India also, there has only been 50 and T20 national competitions for the past few years.

"Apparently, Ajinkya told them not to play the drive too much during the initial part of the innings as the ball moves around a lot in the UK. He told the batters to concentrate on playing as close to the body as possible."

"He believes that with late swing, there would always be the lure to play the cover drive but his best to avoid the stroke initially with Dukes ball being used," the source said.

Rahane believes that the foundation of a Test innings should be based on short targets and not on the ultimate goal. "He told the batters that it

We're mentally prepared for England: Harman

PTI ■ BRISTOL

Indian women's team vice-captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Monday said the squad is mentally prepared to take on mighty hosts England in its first Test in seven years, especially after 'picking the brains' of red-ball specialist Ajinkya Rahane.

India and England will play a one-off Test here from Wednesday, which will start the visitors' full-fledged tour of the UK, where they will also feature in ODI and T20 series.

"I have not played much of red-ball cricket, I have played just two Tests. This time we got a chance to speak to Ajinkya Rahane, he picked his brains on how to bat in the longer format, mentally we are prepared," Harmanpreet said during a virtual press conference. The swashbuckler has made a name for herself in white-ball cricket and is



should be like first 15 runs and then another 25 and another 30 runs.

Sources said that Powar, since his reinstatement as head coach, has been pro-active in building bridges as well as devising strategies, and getting Rahane to speak to the batters was part of that strategy.

'PACE, BOUNCE AND CARRY' IN WTC FINAL PITCH
Southampton: Head groundsman at Southampton Simon Lee is aiming to produce a pacy and bouncy pitch for the World Test Championship final with some assistance for spinners later on in the game.

"Pitch preparation for this Test is a little simpler as we are a neutral venue, we are guided by the ICC, but we all want is a good pitch that offers an even contest between the teams," Lee told ESPNcricinfo.

"For me personally I just want to get something out that has some pace, bounce and carry in the pitch."

"It can be a hard thing to do in England as the weather doesn't help us most of the time, but the forecast in the build-up is good with a lot of sun, so we are hopeful that we'll get some pace and a hard pitch without over-rolling it and killing it."

Both the teams have high quality pace bowlers and Lee wants them to be in the game at all times.

"Pace just makes red-ball cricket exciting, I'm a cricket fan and I want to produce a pitch where the cricket lovers have to watch every ball in case they miss something, be that some class batting or an amazing spell of bowling."

"A maiden over can be quite exciting if it's a battle of skill between both bowler and batter. So, yeah, if we can get some pace and bounce in the pitch, but not too one-sided towards seam movement, we'll be happy," he said.

Djokovic eyes Golden Grand Slam

AFP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic has set his sights on the Golden Grand Slam of all four majors and the Olympic title, insisting: "Everything is possible."

The world number one captured a second French Open and 19th Slam with a 6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over Stefanos Tsitsipas on Sunday.

It allowed him to become the first man in the Open era, and only third in history, to claim all four Grand Slam titles on multiple occasions.

Now he has targeted being the third man to complete a calendar Grand Slam after Don Budge in 1937 and Rod Laver in 1962 and 1969.

On top of that, he also wants the Olympic Gold medal to complete the Golden Grand Slam. "Everything is possible. Definitely in my case I can say that what I've been through in my career, in my life, this journey has been terrific so far," said Djokovic.

"I've achieved some things that a lot of people thought it would be not possible for me to achieve."

"So everything is possible, and I did put myself in a good position to go for the Golden Slam."

The Golden Slam has never been achieved by a man while, in the women's game, only Steffi Graf in 1988 has swept all four majors and Olympic Gold in the same year.

In Graf's case, Olympic Gold came in Seoul. For Djokovic, the opportunity will come in Tokyo later this summer.

"Obviously his goal and our goal is to win the Olympics and then win the Grand Slam. That would be the absolutely top of this year," said Djokovic's long-time coach Marian Vajda. "But it's still far away from us. We have to still focus on the next one. But overall he's set up for this year."

"His priority is Wimbledon, Olympics and US Open. I think that says all."

Djokovic is already halfway to a calendar Slam having secured a record ninth Australian Open in February.

Next up is Wimbledon, where he is the defending champion, Olympics and then a bid to win the US Open for a fourth time.

However, Djokovic has been at this juncture before, winning in Australia and Paris in 2016 but coming up short at the Rio Olympics, Wimbledon and the US Open later in the year.

